

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVIII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1903.

No. 11

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BIRTHS.

On the 17th August, at Kuling, the wife of Dr. EDGERTON H. HARR, of a son.
On the 25th August, at the British Residency, Pahang, the wife of DOUGLAS G. CAMPBELL, of a son (stillborn).
On the 27th August, at Yokohama, the wife of R. SCHMID, of a daughter.
On the 27th August, at 7, Scotland Road, Penang, the wife of WALTER FOX, Acting Superintendent Forests and Gardens, of a daughter.
On the 29th August, at Newchwang, the wife of E. W. SHARPLES, of a daughter.
On the 30th August, at Manila, the wife of CHARLES M. E. PEREIRA, of a daughter.
On the 1st September, at 26, Haskell Road, Shanghai, the wife of A. J. H. MOULE, of a son.
On the 2nd September, at Kobe, the wife of P. H. MCKAY, of a son.
On the 7th September, at the Cosmopolitan Dock, the wife of J. R. CRAIK, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 29th August, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, by the Rev. D. Holland Stubbs, Military Chaplain, S.S., ROBERT M. GOLDIE, son of the late HAMILTON GOLDIE, Airdrie, Scotland, to GRACE EVELINE, eldest daughter of the late JOHN C. CAMPBELL, Muar.

DEATHS.

On the 28th August, at the British Residency, Pahang, the wife of DOUGLAS G. CAMPBELL, British Resident of Pahang.
On the 2nd September, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, PAUL BAURMEISTER, aged 25 years.
On the 2nd September, at No. 1, Carter Road, Shanghai, GREEN ANNE, infant daughter of HAROLD and ANNIE HARKER TAYLOR, aged 3 months.
On the 2nd September, at Hillside, Singapore, PIERRE EDOUARD, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. ETIENNE MARGERY, aged 3 years and 4 months.
On the 3rd September, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, WILLIAM AIRD, late chief engineer of the s.s. *Taishun*.
On the 5th September, at the Government Civil Hospital, JOACHIM GOMES, aged 67 years.
On the 6th September, at 11.35 a.m., at his residence, No. 28, Praça Lobo d'Avila, Macao, DOMENLO POMPEN DE SOUZA (deeply regretted).

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The Canadian mail with London dates of July 30th, arrived per C.P.R. steamer *Emyres* of Japan, on the 8th inst. (39 days); and the English mail of the 14th ult. arrived per P. & O. steamer *Simla*, on the 11th inst. (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Major Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., R.E., Governor of the Gold Coast, has been appointed Governor of the Colony of Hongkong in succession to Sir Henry A. Blake, appointed to Ceylon. We believe, though the news does not come from an official source, that Sir Henry Blake leaves for Ceylon in December. Sir Matthew Nathan's date of arrival is unknown.

Viceroy Shum is said to have drawn on eight provinces for reinforcements against the Kwangsi rebels, viz., from Kiangsu, Kiangsi, Anhwei, Hunan, Hupeh, Fohkien, Chekiang, and Kwangtung.

The money borrowed from Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. for the Kwangsi Government has been returned to that firm, according to *L'Echo de Chine*. The Viceroy contents himself with buying the rifles and ammunition which have to be delivered within fifteen days.

Messrs. Okura & Co., a Tokyo firm with a branch at Tientsin, have received an order from Viceroy Yuan Shi-kai for 50 guns and 10,000 rifles. The Tokyo firm, it is stated, will make a profit of some 70,000 yen by the transaction, but the price is to be paid in annual instalments.

The Russian and French opposition against the removal of the embargo on the importation of firearms into China proving futile, the prohibition was cancelled at Peking on the 26th ult., on the proposition of Great Britain, Japan, and the United States, in accordance with the terms of the peace protocol.

A private letter received in Shanghai on the 10th inst. reports that Dalny is filled with anxious homeward-bound passengers. Officials of the Trans-Siberian Railway are uncertain whether the repairs will be completed in one week or one month. On p. 193 will be found some details of the state of affairs recently on the line.

According to a Wuchow despatch received in Shanghai, the region near the seacoast, belonging to Kwangsi and bordering on Kwangtung, is full of malcontents, who have hitherto kept rather quiet for some time. This quiet was really due to the rebels waiting for their arms and ammunition which they had been expecting from "over seas" (? Sandwich Islands, etc., asks the *N.-C. Daily News*), and these having lately arrived, the leaders have begun to show some activity. The first step apparent so far has been to unite with the Kwangtung malcontents in the seacoast prefectures of Yamchow and Lienchow.

Marshal Su will probably be sent to Chinese Turkestan, it is said, instead of being beheaded, the Empress Dowager being no longer incensed against him.

The Chengtingfu-Shuntéfu section of the Lu-Han railway, 390 kilometres (234 miles) from Peking, is to be opened to traffic, with a train a day each way, on the 15th inst.

Mr. E. T. Pym, Acting Commissioner of the Imperial Maritime Customs at Hankow, who returned to that port on the s.s. *Kiangyu* on the 1st inst., died on the 7th inst., of cholera. Our Shanghai correspondent states that the numerous cases of cholera are attracting public attention to the question of messing on coasting steamers.

It is understood that instructions were received on the 4th inst. in Shanghai from the Diplomatic Body at Peking that the *Supao* prisoners should be brought up for trial forthwith at the Mixed Court. The *N.-C. Daily News* says that a rumour that four were to be unconditionally released proved to be without foundation.

It appears from a question asked in Parliament that Mr. Longford, formerly British Consul at Nagasaki, was offered the Consulate at Manila, but declined to go there. Mr. Longford chose to retire rather than return to Japan. Lord Cranborne informed Mr. Reimond that the Japan service is entirely distinct from the general Consular service, and that Mr. Longford had no reason to expect a post outside Japan.

According to a Peking despatch to Japan, the Waiwupu addressed an official note to the Russian Minister enquiring about the appointment of Admiral Alexieff as Viceroy of the Far East. M. Lessar replied that it was true the appointment had been made, the explanation being that there had been no superintendent of the Eastern China Railway. The Chinese Government is stated to be determined not to recognise Admiral Alexieff in his new title nor to admit that he wields such immense authority as described in the Ukase. They positively refuse to recognise the appointment until they receive official advice from the Russian Government.

The *N.-C. Daily News* publishes a confirmation of the news of Prince Tuan's visit to Peking. Previous to his arrival, it seems, Tuan's son, the ex-heir apparent, P'u Chun, was to have left Peking for the Shen-Kan provinces to join, of course, his parent somewhere in Ninghsia, Kansu province. This fact was so well known in the capital that everybody was expecting P'u Chun to leave Peking for the North-west provinces any day. Much surprise was therefore felt by outsiders not "in the know" when a special edict from the Empress Dowager was issued on the 24th ult., addressed to P'u Chun, telling him that he need not go to the Shen-Kan provinces for the present. To those who were in the secret, however, it was plain enough that as everybody was expecting P'u Chun to leave Peking, much surprise would be felt by the public if he did not start soon for his destination. His father, ex-Prince Tuan, however, had come in the meantime, and it was not necessary therefore for P'u Chun to go. The edict in question was meant accordingly to throw dust in people's eyes, and P'u Chun will therefore be able to remain and assist his notorious parent.

HONGKONG'S NEW GOVERNOR.

(Daily Press, 10th September.)

The announcement made yesterday of the appointment of a new Governor to this Colony of Hongkong gave an answer to a very natural anxiety for news on the subject among the resident community of Hongkong. As is by this time generally known the selected official to succeed Sir HENRY BLAKE is Major Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, K.O.M.G., R.E., Governor of the Gold Coast, West Africa, since 1900. Among the list of possible successors to our present Governor Sir MATTHEW NATHAN's name was not previously mentioned, so that the appointment comes rather as a surprise, and no little curiosity was expressed yesterday as to what were his qualifications for the post. A brief history of our future Governor will therefore no doubt be of interest to our readers. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN came originally of a well known Jewish family and was born on the 3rd January, 1862, being thus between 41 and 42 years of age and exceptionally young for a Governor of Hongkong. Adopting the Army as his profession, he passed first into the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. He also passed out first and gained the POLLOCK Medal, which is given to the best all-round man at the R.M.A., and the Regulation Sword, which is awarded by Government to the "best conducted" man during his time at Woolwich. His record, therefore, at the Royal Military Academy (where he was partly contemporary with two officers well known in Hongkong, Major KING, R.E., and Major DOPPING-HEPENSTAL, R.E.) was exceptionally brilliant, and he gained in particular the reputation of an excellent disciplinarian. He became lieutenant on the 19th May, 1880, and in 1885 he served with the Nile expedition. On the 31st July, 1889, he gained his captaincy, serving that year with the Lushai expedition on the North-eastern frontier of India, securing the medal and clasp. From 1895 to 1900 he acted as Secretary to the Colonial Defence Committee, during which period he became Major on the 1st September, 1898. In 1899 he administered the government of Sierra Leone, gaining his C.M.G. the same year. In 1900 he succeeded Sir F. M. HODGSON as Governor of the Gold Coast, where he has been since then. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN thus has had not a long, but still a distinguished career. He is unusually young for appointment to Hongkong. He has won the best of reputations as a disciplinarian and as a military expert, particularly in the matter of fortifications. He is known to be an exceedingly hard-working official. In military circles his appointment will no doubt be welcomed, if only on account of the reputation which he gained in his early career. He has an elder brother in the Royal Artillery and, if we are not mistaken, relations in the Colonial Service. Those who know him speak highly of his social qualifications. He is, as far as we know, still unmarried. In coming from the Gold Coast to Hongkong, Sir MATTHEW NATHAN makes a distinct advance in Colonial promotion, but his elevation to Hongkong is looked upon among those who should know best as a proof that the home Government recognises the critical position in the Far East at the present moment, appointing therefore a strong man, whose reputation justifies the hope that he will be able to deal with such difficulties as may arise during his term of office. As he has apparently been a successful Governor on the Gold Coast, where the native question is a large one, civilians may be justified in hoping that

he will also be able to handle the most arduous native question here, with satisfaction alike to Europeans and to Chinese. He is the first substantive Governor here holding active military rank, and he is also an Engineer in a Colony where a great ordinance concerning buildings is about to operate. The fact cannot be disguised that the new Governor of Hongkong will have before him an exceptionally difficult task. That he may be found equal to undertaking it will be the fervent wish of all.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

(Daily Press, 9th September.)

The correspondent of the *North-China Daily News* at Tokyo states in a telegram of the 4th instant that an official denial has been given at the Japanese capital to the report from London, via Berlin, that the basis of the Russo-Japanese negotiation is the recognition by Japan of the interests acquired by Russia in Manchuria, in exchange for the recognition by Russia of Japanese interests in Corea. He continues: "The fact that negotiation is going on is admitted, but the above bases are declared to be remote from the truth, as Japanese interests in Corea are already recognised by Russia in the protocol of 1898." We cannot attach much importance to this telegram. It is only natural, of course, that the Japanese Government should wish to prevent any premature notions about its negotiations with Russia gaining general currency. The statement that Japanese interests in Corea are already recognised by Russia in the protocol of 1898, if it is part of the official denial reported by the Tokyo correspondent, is not very appropriate. This protocol contains the following articles:—

I. The Imperial Governments of Russia and Japan recognise definitely the sovereignty and entire independence of Corea, and pledge themselves mutually to abstain from all direct interference in the internal affairs of that country.

II. Desiring to remove all possible cause of misunderstanding in the future, the Imperial Governments of Russia and Japan pledge themselves mutually, in the event of Corea having recourse to the advice and assistance either of Russia or of Japan, to take no measure in respect to the appointment of military instructors or financial advisers without arriving beforehand at a mutual agreement on this subject.

III. In view of the wide development taken by the commercial and industrial enterprise of Japan in Corea, as well as the large number of Japanese subjects residing in that country, the Russian Government will not hinder in any way the development of commercial and industrial relations between Japan and Corea.

The article which is most favourable to Japan is the third, which certainly gives Japanese commercial and industrial interests in Corea a special place, guaranteeing that Russia will not hinder their advancement. We do not see that Russia's action with regard to Yong-ampho can positively be said to contravene this provision; yet undoubtedly if successful it would be a great stroke of policy for Russia and a menace to Japan's position in Corea. The latest news about Yong-ampho is contained in the same telegram of the Tokyo correspondent above quoted. He says that the land lease question is in suspense owing to the opposition of Japan, by which the Korean Foreign Office is deterred from signing the agreement, while M. PAVLOFF threatens to consider the agreement effective, signature or no—a childish threat,

worthy of M. PAVLOFF, who appears to have lost his temper completely. The Japanese Government surely cannot deny that some question of a balance between Manchuria and Corea is involved in the admitted negotiations between Japan and Russia, though not perhaps as outlined in London-Berlin reports. It is the line of policy overwhelmingly dictated by the circumstances of the case. Our Japan correspondent, in the letter which we published yesterday, was very pessimistic as to the effect which a Russo-Japanese agreement on such lines would have on the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. We cannot believe the prospect as black as he painted it. It is true that in the treaty signed at London on the 30th January, 1902, Great Britain and Japan mutually recognised the independence of China and Corea and agreed not to enter without consultation, into separate arrangements with another Power to the prejudice of each other's interests. The recognition of the *status quo* in Manchuria may be looked on, justly, as permitting a violation of China's integrity, while an extension of Japanese power in Corea would not tend to the fuller integrity of Corea. But at this period it is obviously too late to demand the restoration of Manchuria to China except at the point of the sword; and a closed Corea under the present rule is certainly of little importance to Britain. There is no reason for the lapse of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance because of an understanding between Japan and Russia. It might be objected that if the Alliance could not prevent the alienation of Manchuria it cannot be of much use for the rest of China. To argue thus is to ignore the fact that Manchuria was lost before the Alliance was formed. Britain and Japan have great interests in common all over China, and to denounce the 1902 agreement because of what occurred before it was signed is an absurd policy.

QUARANTINE AGAINST SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, 7th September.)

On Saturday, at a special meeting of the Sanitary Board here, the port of Shanghai was declared infected with cholera. It was with great reluctance, it may well be understood, that this measure was adopted, though it has been clear for over a week now that such a step would have to be taken, except in the most improbable event of news reaching us from our Northern neighbour that the disease has ceased to trouble European residents there. Merchants and shipping men here, as might be imagined, are most loth to see any restrictions placed upon free intercourse between Shanghai and Hongkong. They very naturally point out that a certain amount of cholera, or, as some claim, a sickness resembling cholera, prevails annually in Shanghai, doing little harm outside the native city. It has therefore been urged that we should be very slow in Hongkong to put Shanghai into quarantine. The argument about the injury done to commerce by a sanitary embargo against one of our largest customers must be recognised as powerful. Yet we feel bound to commend the action of the Sanitary Board, which in fact we recommended a week ago. The terrible dangers following on the introduction of epidemic cholera into Hongkong will be disputed by none. We had an experience of the ravages of the disease last year, and have no desire to see the possibility of a recurrence treated lightly. It cannot be denied that, while bubonic plague is deadly enough, cholera is more fatal still to the community in general, both here and in all parts of the East.

Hence we cannot be too careful to minimise the opportunities of its introduction into Hongkong, even if it be at some expense to commerce and shipping.

It is far from our intention to advocate retaliatory measures, but we must point out that the port of Hongkong, where a single Chinese case of plague has occurred in nine days, is quarantined still by Manila, Netherlands India, Singapore, Rangoon, Shanghai, Siam, Indo-China, and British North Borneo and Labuan, as the last *Government Gazette* testifies. Yet we hesitate to declare a port infected when a disease far more deadly to Europeans and equally fatal to Asiatics has made its presence most distinctly felt. Supposing that no further plague cases occur here, and that gradually, in the course of one to three months, we are freed by the neighbouring ports from quarantine on account of plague: can we imagine that, were cholera to be introduced here from Shanghai and were it to obtain any slight hold, we should not be immediately laid under a ban once more by our neighbours for the new disease? The answer is obvious, and it therefore seems to us extremely short-sighted to neglect any means of keeping cholera out of our midst, for fear of damaging commerce, when the smallest suspicion of an outbreak of cholera here would condemn Hongkong to restrictions in other ports which would at least last until plague begins again, as there is no reason to hope that it will not, next year. There is every cause for us to be wise in time and do our utmost to save the Colony from a course which threatens it with far more loss, pecuniary and otherwise, than any small damage inflicted by the restriction of intercourse between us and Shanghai.

HOIHOW'S TRADE IN 1902.

(Daily Press, 8th September.)

Mr. Consul WERNER's report to the Foreign Office on the trade of Kiungchow (Hoihow) in 1902 is practically a report on the island of Hainan, for as far as European trade is concerned Hainan and Hoihow, the port of Kiungchow, capital of the island, are synonymous. Mr. WERNER states the situation roughly when he says that the central and most inaccessible part of Hainan is inhabited by "wild" Li, or Loi, aborigines; surrounding these are the "tame" Lis, and surrounding these again a broad fringe of Chinese agriculturists and traders, which has so far been impinged on by European commerce at one point only, Hoihow. Being the only port open to foreign trade, Hoihow is where foreign goods enter Hainan and native produce leaves the island. Direct trade with the aborigines is impossible, the Chinese keeping it all to themselves and refusing to allow foreign merchants to reside in the interior. The products of the island are simple, and the imports are of the nature of necessities rather than luxuries. Except opium and kerosene little but food and clothing materials go into Hainan. From the Chinese officials no help can be looked for, since the increase of foreign trade takes from them yearly a larger portion of the revenue by which they and their subordinates supplement their small salaries; they foster, therefore, rather the junk trade and increase inland taxation to make up for their losses. Yet, in spite of its handicap, the trade of Kiungchow and its port, Hoihow, has increased steadily since its opening as a treaty port in 1858. A Consular representative was established at Kiungchow in 1877. In that year the total value of trade in foreign vessels was

Tls. 1,203,323; in 1902 it was Tls. 5,572,492. All the time the island has remained undeveloped, so that the steady growth of trade has been most satisfactory. The introduction of foreign enterprise could not but be attended by striking results. The island is rich in gold, silver, copper, lead, and tin. Of course native superstition would have to be overcome, but even now in famine years the aborigines show willingness to modify their prejudice against mining. At present, as when Kiungchow was first opened, it is the food-supply for the Hongkong market, and to a less degree for that of Canton, which is the port's chief utility. The substitution of steamship for junk enabled many articles of food to arrive here in a more edible state.

1902 was Kiungchow's record year, the total value of trade being as we have said, Tls. 5,572,492, or £724,612. This is £11,024 above the figures of 1899, the previous best year. The increase, writes Mr. WERNER, may be attributed chiefly to the large import of rice necessitated by the failure of the local rice-crops, and also in a minor degree to the larger demand for brown sugar, which is one of Hainan's staple exports. Foreign goods were imported to the value of £440,065, rice being brought in to the extent of 582,093 cwt. (£194,048) more than in 1901 and 553,093 cwt. (£184,017) more than in 1900. Hongkong imports showed an increase to the value of £46,932 from the previous year. The value of exports declined by £27,647, from £311,763 in 1901 to £284,116 in 1902. More than a third of the exports of 1902 was brown sugar. Exports to Hongkong alone decreased by £29,313, only a little less than the advance made in 1901 on the previous year. But the general figures of trade between Hainan and Hongkong work out favourably and Mr. WERNER is able to write:—"Most of the trade of Hainan is transacted with Hongkong. In 1901 the imports from that colony were valued at £335,615, and the exports to it at £306,833. In 1902 the figures were: £382,546 (imports) and £277,520 (exports), the total value of the trade being thus greater by £17,618. Considering the very large increase in the previous year this must be looked upon as in every way satisfactory, since it shows an increase of £96,248 in two years."

CANTON'S TRADE IN 1902.

(Daily Press, 11th September.)

A little over two months ago we noticed the report on the trade of Canton by the British Consul-General at that port. The Imperial Maritime Customs returns of trade in 1902 have now reached us, including a report on Canton by Mr. J. C. JOHNSTON, deputy commissioner. Mr. JOHNSTON says, in his introductory remarks, that the statistics give no indication of any commercial depression alleged by some people to have existed at Canton during 1902, but on the contrary show an increased volume of trade. This was the impression conveyed also by Mr. SCOTT's report. Yet droughts occurred both in spring and in autumn, seriously damaging the first rice-crop and ruining the second. On the knowledge of the second failure becoming public, famine and disorder were feared, but, says Mr. JOHNSTON, the local authorities and a few of the well-known charitable institutions of Canton came to the rescue and, with the aid of subscriptions, arranged for the importation of rice from the Yangtze Valley. Prices were thus kept within reasonable bounds, and trade was not disturbed

to the extent anticipated. In fact, the net value of trade for the year reached Hk. Tls. 79,744,707, the highest on record, and Hk. Tls. 19,754,443 in advance of the figures of 1901. All headings of Revenue showed increases, and the total amount collected was Hk. Tls. 2,592,260 no less than Hk. Tls. 83,969 ahead of the previous best year, 1888. This substantial increase was accounted for by (1) a general improvement in trade; (2) the application of an effective 5 per cent. *ad valorem* rate of duty; (3) the carriage by steamer of commodities travelling by junk previous to the placing of the native Customs under the control of the I.M.C.

As we so recently examined the report prepared for the British Foreign Office on Canton's trade in 1902, the figures for which are based on the Customs returns, we need not again go into the details. We will confine ourselves to mentioning some of the more interesting remarks in Mr. JOHNSTON's report. "There has," he says, "been considerable activity in the building trade in the foreign concessions, but the house accommodation is yet insufficient for present requirements, the consequence being a big rise in the value of property and house-rents. There has been a good deal of talk about acquiring land on the southern side of the river, on the Honam back reach, for a general foreign settlement, but the question has not so far taken any definite shape." As was mentioned in the 1901 report, it was proposed to erect godowns to facilitate the discharge of steamers on the ground reclaimed on the north bank of the river immediately above Shameen. This Hwang Sha reclamation has been transferred by the Chinese authorities to the railway administration for the Canton terminus of their line. Another reclamation scheme has been in contemplation for years, the tract to be reclaimed and banded being on the north bank of the river, from the Tien Tzu Matou wharf to the Shameen. "The adoption of a system of wharfage-dues," says Mr. JOHNSTON, "would doubtless go a long way towards providing sufficient funds for carrying out such a desirable and much needed improvement."

Naturally Mr. JOHNSTON has something to say about piracy, which from time immemorial has flourished in the Canton Delta. "While native junks only," he writes, "traversed inland waters, little was heard of piracy cases; but now that steam-launches are plying everywhere, every attack is recorded and, in many instances, magnified into a very serious affair." After mentioning the Evans case, he goes on to say that it is due to the Chinese authorities to state that "strenuous efforts are being made by them to suppress piracy, and that a more thorough system of patrolling and searching is being introduced." Unfortunately it cannot yet be said that the efforts recorded by Mr. JOHNSTON have met with marked success, though in the Canton neighbourhood, no doubt, things are much better than they were a year ago.

Two Japanese doctors are said to have discovered a serum whose injection will cure asthma.

The testimony deduced at the enquiry at Shanghai into the wreck of the *Spol* will be forwarded to the home government, as well as to the owners of the *Spol* at Christiania. The Norwegian Consulate Court which sat in the case did not deal with the question of the blame or otherwise attaching to the master of the vessel.

HONGKONG'S NEW GOVERNOR.

SIR MATTHEW NATHAN
APPOINTED.

We received on Wednesday morning from the Colonial Secretary's Office the following announcement:—

His Majesty the King has been pleased to appoint Major Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., Royal Engineers, at present Governor of the Gold Coast, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Hongkong in succession to His Excellency Sir Henry A. Blake.

ROOF COLLAPSE IN MACDONNELL
ROAD.

On the 9th inst., at about 12.30 p.m., the roof of Mr. A. Shelton Hooper's house "Rougemont," in Macdonnell Rd., collapsed suddenly without any warning. The cause of the fall was not, as might at first have been imagined, the exceedingly heavy rains which have of late visited the Colony, but the fact that the roof-beams had been entirely eaten through by white ants. Mrs. Shelton Hooper was in the bedroom at the time the collapse occurred and fortunately heard the preliminary sounds in time to escape on to the verandah, thereby saving her life, there is little doubt. She was, however, kept a prisoner by the fallen materials until her husband's return, when she has helped out over the ruins. Happily the floor stood the strain of the fall and only the top story was wrecked. Here the damage amounted to about \$1,500, everything practically being smashed up. A small fall of plaster from the ceiling had occurred the previous evening, leading Mr. Shelton Hooper to warn the landlord that the roof wanted looking to. It was exceedingly fortunate that the catastrophe did not occur during the night, several tons of material being precipitated on to the bed.

HONGKONG SANITARY
BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works (Vice-President); Mr. C. McL. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Captain F. W. Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. A. Ramjahn, Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Mr. E. A. Hewett; Dr. Pearce, Acting Medical Officer of Health; Dr. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS.

An application was submitted for exemption from the provision of backyards in respect of Nos. 2 and 3, Shing Wong Street.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. HEWETT, both applications were referred back to the Acting Medical Officer of Health for further particulars to be provided.

IMPORTATION OF DOGS FROM SHANGHAI.

Further correspondence was laid on the table with relation to the importation of dogs from Shanghai.

The Board had resolved, at a meeting held in July, to recommend that the prohibition against landing dogs from Shanghai be withdrawn as from 18th August provided no case of rabies had occurred at Shanghai since 3rd February, the date of a Consular letter on the subject.

A further letter of date 12th August, from the Consul, Mr. R. W. Mansfield, stated that 12 cases of rabies had occurred since 3rd February.

Mr. Hewett minuted that he had no recollection of the Board coming to such a decision.

The President:—The Board only recommended that the prohibition should be withdrawn provided no case of rabies had occurred since the 3rd February; as 12 cases had occurred it was evident that the prohibition should be extended."

Mr. HEWETT said that personally he had no recollection of the Board having come to any such decision. At the meeting of 13th July he certainly spoke against the extension of the prohibition especially as the shooting season was now on and sportsmen going up to Shanghai might be unable to bring their dogs back to Hongkong. The letter from Mr. Mansfield was very vague, and he thought that before any steps had been taken in the matter it would have been better to have got further information. It was a question that should have been submitted to the full Board. He had already had occasion to speak against the individual action of members of the Board. In one instance a meeting of the Board was called without the majority of the members having been consulted, and on two different occasions—

The PRESIDENT—I am afraid you are speaking away from the point.

Mr. HEWETT, continuing, said that, so far as he understood, the Board had not come to any such decision with reference to the prohibition of dogs from Shanghai. They had come to a decision which without reference to them had been upset. The principle, he maintained, was altogether wrong. No decision should be submitted to the Government as being the decision of the Board which had not been passed by the full Board. There was no security in the future for the members of the Board that in the event of them arriving at any decision one or two members might not take it upon themselves to send to the Government a report different from the real decision of the full Board.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK supported the remarks that had been made by Mr. Hewett, saying that before anything was sent to the Government as being the decision of the full Board the Board should have been consulted.

The PRESIDENT said he thought there was a misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Hewett in this matter. It was considered at a meeting of the Board and the Board resolved that the prohibition against dogs from Shanghai should be withdrawn provided that no rabies had occurred in Shanghai since February last. That was sent to the Government. The Government communicated with Shanghai and the answer was that 12 cases of rabies had come to the knowledge of the Consul since February. That being so, he took it for granted that the prohibition was to be withdrawn only if there had been no cases of rabies and that as there had been cases the Board meant the prohibition to continue. The prohibition ceased on the 18th ult. and it was necessary that the Government should know what the Board recommended in the matter. Therefore he took it upon himself to conclude that it was the decision of the Board that as there had been cases of rabies the prohibition should continue.

The VICE-PRESIDENT remarked that in a matter of this kind where urgency was necessary on account of the prohibition that was in force coming to a termination, the action the President had taken was only right and proper. The decision of the Board at its former meeting, if it meant anything at all, meant that the prohibition was to remain in force if there had been cases of rabies occurring in Shanghai, and therefore he thought it was perfectly justifiable that the President should inform the Government that the Board was of opinion that the prohibition should continue in force.

The PRESIDENT—Next business.

Mr. HEWETT asked if there was nothing further to be done in connection with this matter?

The PRESIDENT—There is no motion before the Board.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK thought there should be some motion before the Board, because as he understood it what seemed to have been quite an irregularity had taken place—a certain communication had been sent to the Government with reference to what the Board would recommend and he believed the effect of this would last for something like six months. To legalise the matter there ought to be a motion.

The PRESIDENT—The Government have already extended this prohibition.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—By Government proclamation?

The PRESIDENT—Yes.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Has it to be done on

the recommendation of the Board under the Ordinance?

Mr. HEWETT replied that it had to be so done. It was in the last Gazette. Personally he was not satisfied with the explanation given by the President and he thought there should be some motion put before the meeting.

The PRESIDENT thereupon moved that the action taken by him be endorsed by the Board.

Captain LYONS seconded and the motion was carried by a majority, those voting against being Hon. Mr. Pollock, Mr. Hewett, and Mr. Fung Wa Chun.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK remarked that he was simply voting on the question of principle and not with regard to the reasonableness or otherwise of the motion.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—The motion was not one of principle. It is an abstract point.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—It is not an abstract point, but a very concrete one.

Mr. HEWETT—It is not an abstract point, but a very important principle.

A CATTLE-SHED.

There was laid on the table an application for permission to erect two temporary wooden sheds on Farm Lot 23 for the purpose of housing dry cattle.

The application was granted.

PORK-LICENCES.

In connection with an application for a licence to sell pork, poultry, and vegetables at 46, Sai Wan O, Mr. Hewett minuted that no sale of pork, etc., should be allowed on the island without a licence. If necessary the Ordinance should be amended to that effect.

Hon. Mr. Pollock suggested that the matter be referred to the sub-committee dealing with Ordinance 1 of 1903.

The PRESIDENT said there were on the island a number of villages which had sprung up recently and which did not come within section 77 of the Ordinance. He moved that the Government be recommended to include those villages within the scope of the Ordinance.

The motion was agreed to, and the application was granted.

LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended 1st September showed that 1,630 houses in the Eastern and 3,199 houses in the Western District had been treated. In the latter district fines to the extent of \$1,370 were recovered.

RAT RETURN.

The rat return showed that during the fortnight ended 7th September 643 rats were destroyed; of these, 22 were found to be infected with plague.

The PRESIDENT stated that, though these numbers were smaller, more rats were being caught in the dwelling-houses. For the last three weeks the figures were respectively 4, 83, and 71. The percentage of plague-infected rats was higher than formerly.

NULLAHS IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

There was laid on the table correspondence relative to the training of nullahs in the Western District, Dr. Pearce having visited and reported upon them as to their being possible breeding places for anopheles mosquitoes. In his report Dr. Pearce suggested that a particular stream at Kennedytown should be allowed to be used by washermen as mosquito-larvæ were not found in the soapy water used for washing purposes.

The PRESIDENT moved that this proposal be approved and that the Captain Superintendent of Police be informed to allow the washermen to use this stream.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK seconded and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

A Land Act for the Philippine Islands has been passed. Among other things homestead-ing privileges are provided for Americans and natives. No more than sixteen hectares may be taken up by any one person and the patent can be obtained only after seven years of continuous occupancy and cultivation after the proper filing. Over six months of absence from a claim at any one time will lead to forfeiture of the claim. All surveyed lands must be taken up in legal subdivision of the survey, unsurveyed lands must be taken in lots as nearly as possible to a rectangular shape. No claim can be sold encumbered before the patent is obtained.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

Everyone admits, we suppose, that Glenealy is one of the prettiest places in the island and the magnificent tree-ferns growing there contribute considerably to the effect. Many of them are twenty feet in height and their fronds live at least a similar expanse. The principal species is *Alsophila tomentosa*, a native of Java and Formosa, which has now become naturalised in the vicinity of Glenealy, where thousands of small seedlings may be found by the initiated. A second species, *Alsophila podophylla*, is a native of Hongkong, but it is nothing like such a beautiful plant as *A. tomentosa*. It is only represented by two or three specimens in Glenealy.

A pretty shrub, *Cladodendron macrosiphon*, is now in flower on the bank above the *Grevillea* walk in the old garden. The flowers are white, about 4 inches long, and are produced very profusely at the ends of the branches in cymes, but they last for a very short time. The species was discovered by Sir John Kirk on the coast opposite Zanzibar Island, growing in very rocky places. There is a good figure of it in the *Botanical Magazine* of twenty years ago.

In 1610 *Gynandropsis pentaphylla* was introduced to England from the East Indies. It is now a cosmopolitan species in the tropics and, of course, might have been then. It is a tall-growing annual with mauve flowers which become much lighter in colour after they have been open for a short time. There are several pot-plants in flower at the bottom of the steps at the north-east entrance to the gardens.

The rainfall for the month has been abnormal. No less than 14.65 inches have been registered already, which is 5.83 inches above the average for the whole month taken over a period of ten years. The daily fall has been as follows:—

	Inches.		Inches.
1st Sept.	1.45	6th Sept.	2.70
2nd "	2.25	7th "	1.27
3rd "	.27	8th "	2.22
4th "	.57	9th "	3.51
5th "	.38		
Total.....		14.65	

AFFAIRS IN MANCHURIA.

A Japanese captain, who left Japan in May last and has been travelling in Corea and Manchuria, returned last month to Japan. The captain landed at Newchwang, whence he proceeded to Liao-yang by rail and then travelled overland to Wiju. He then returned to Harbin by rail and travelled to various places in Manchuria, making again for Wiju by way of Port Arthur and Dalny. He also visited Yung-ampho, and then proceeded to Pingyang, from which place he journeyed by boat on the Taidon River to Chemulpo, leaving there for Japan and arriving at Shimonoseki on the 26th ult. The following is an account of his travels in Manchuria, as published by a Japanese vernacular paper and translated by the *Kobe Chronicle*:—

"I feel that I attracted less attention at the hands of the Russian authorities during my travels in Manchuria than I should have been led to suppose. This was probably due to the fact that I wore ordinary clothes, though, whenever questioned as to my personal status I did not conceal the fact that I was a military officer. It was reported that troops were stationed at every station on the railways in Manchuria, but this is a little exaggerated, as some of the stations certainly were not guarded by troops. No troops were seen at the stations of Whang-tien, Kuenin, and Hing-kin."

Speaking of the Eastern Chinese Railway, Captain Kusuyama remarks that, although not a railway man, he was instinctively led to imagine from what he saw that this line was scarcely paying expenses. A train from Dalny to St. Petersburg was sometimes seen to consist of thirty or more waggons, but more than half the number of trains consisted of sand-trucks used for the construction of the line. The trains generally consist of fourteen carriages, including a couple of goods waggons. As a rule, no first-class carriages were attached, and the number of passengers was very small. Russians generally took second-class seats, but the number travelling was generally about one-third of the total seats available. Third-class

seats were mostly patronised by Chinese and Japanese merchants, and the number of seats occupied seemed to be about half of those available. Four-class carriages were occupied by Chinese labourers, and they were almost always filled.

There are about 700 Japanese residing at Harbin. Most of the Japanese houses there are stores of fairly good standing, and the householders had mostly come from Vladivostok with good capital. The Japanese have been doing business with the Russians for a long time. It is a rule in Harbin that the hotel-keeper or the owner of a house which admits a traveller for a night must report the fact to the authorities within twelve hours after his arrival. Special procedure has to be gone through before a Japanese military officer is admitted. Very strict attention is directed to Japanese military men, and the hotel-keeper or the house-holder is often put to great trouble. At some of the houses where Captain Kusuyama spent a night he admits that he did not enlighten them as to the nature of his profession.

The officer makes reference to the coal-mines in Manchuria. Amongst other collieries which he saw was the Bunjun (Japanese pronunciation) colliery, which is now being opened. It is situated about twenty-five miles from Moukden, and the land was being purchased from the Moukden Station to the mine, probably with the object of laying a light railway. The mine produces good smokeless coal as well as ordinary coal; and the quantity produced each day amounts to some twenty waggon-loads. Another important mine, the Entai colliery, produces sufficient each day to fill one ordinary train. Then there is the Honkeiko colliery, fifty miles east of Liaoyang, and another mine, called the Saibasu colliery, about sixty miles north of Whangfengcheng on the Yalu. The two last-named mines were inspected by the Russians last spring. They went away after inspection, however, and the captain adds, "the inhabitants there were very happy to think that the Russians would never come again."

The extent of the works carried out by the Russians at Yung-ampho is very small compared with what has been done in connection with the Chinese Eastern railway. There were only forty Russians (men and women) living there at the time of Captain Kusuyama's visit, in addition to 1,000 Chinese coolies. The Russians seemed to be working guardedly in view of the objections that might be made. Captain Kusuyama tried in different ways to sound the sentiments of the Russians, but they said not a single word to indicate their views. There is a village called Tungwha on the bank of the Yalu a little above Yung-ampho. At this place, the Captain says, the Russians purchase timber and send it down the river. There are gold and silver mines in that neighbourhood. Timber was wonderfully plentiful at Tungwha and there were about twenty-four Russian soldiers, without uniforms, stationed at this place. It was stated that the Russians inspected the gold and silver mines there last year, though at the present time the Chinese are working the mines on a very small scale.

WARNINGS TO TRAVELLERS VIA SIBERIA.

The following letter, signed George Butler, appears in the *N.-C. Daily News*:—

Sir.—I think that the insertion of the following letter which I have just received may give intending travellers by the Dalny route pause and cause them to reflect seriously on the possible delays, vexations, and discomforts likely to be experienced:—

Dalny, 2nd September.

Dear B.—If you have time I should be much obliged if you will write a letter to the *N.-C. Daily News* giving my experience of travelling by the Siberian route. We left Shanghai August 23rd and arrived at Dalny harbour on Tuesday morning, August 25th, and were then informed that owing to cholera in Shanghai we were to be quarantined (this must have been known to the agent in Shanghai). We were liberated from quarantine on Friday, 28th, and landed the same afternoon, hoping our troubles were at an end, but no, we were then told that owing to a breakdown on the railway, not only was there no

likelihood of a train for a week but also that there had not been any for about ten days. Of course this must also have been known to the Shanghai agent. To make matters worse the only hotel in the place was full. We were allowed to remain a few days on the ship, but eventually were turned adrift with no place in which to lay our heads. We at last found a room in the town (damp and newly painted), where we stayed until we could get rooms in the hotel (a filthy place), where we remain, trusting that with any luck we may get away in ten days' time. Three weeks from Shanghai!!!—I am, etc., E. W.

The above letter needs little or no comment. Breakdowns may occur on any line and cause great discomfort to passengers, but it is inexcusable that the agents of the line, knowing that a mishap had occurred, should without advertising the fact, allow travellers to proceed, and in consequence suffer the delays and inconveniences so graphically described in the above letter.

A passenger from Port Arthur informs the *Shanghai Mercury* that about 4 o'clock on the morning of the 30th August, the train running from Harbin to Port Arthur met with an accident near a station called Wandzelin, about five hours from Port Arthur. The train was running slow, as heavy storms had disturbed the track. The bridge over a small stream proved to have been washed away, so that the engine, tender, luggage, and mail-carriages dropped through, four other carriages left the rails, and the remaining four carriages were unhurt. Two persons were killed, and nine wounded. The informant adds that it was seven hours before a surgeon arrived, and that they were delayed many hours by the mishap. The heavy storms did much damage to the whole railway system.

THE YONG-AMPHO LEASE.

The *Mainichi* publishes a telegram from its Seoul correspondent, dated the 28th ult., which states that M. Pavloff, Russian Minister to Seoul, accompanied by Mr. Ginsburg, called at the Foreign Department on the previous afternoon and urged the Vice-Minister to sign the new Ryong-an (Yung-ampho) lease. They remained at the Foreign Office six hours. Ye Do-sai, Korean Foreign Minister, promised to call on M. Pavloff at 10 o'clock the same morning. It was noticed that on his way thither he called at the British and U.S. Legations. He was taken ill after leaving these Legations and found it impossible to proceed to the Russian Legation. On returning, he sent word to the Russian Minister saying that he was unable to see him. The Russian Minister arrived at the Foreign Department in a great fury and saw Ye Jun-ka, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, as stated above. The Foreign Minister was sent for several times; but he did not put in an appearance. The Russian Minister made free use of high words, but was unable to carry his point. The Korean officials are indignant with the Russian Minister for his ungentlemanly and high-handed behaviour, goes on the *Mainichi* correspondent, and regard his movements as an insult to the Korean officials. Ye Do-sai is believed to have decided to resign because he sees that if he remains in office he will be compelled by the Court to affix the official seal to the lease.

The latest despatch from Yung-ampho to Seoul states that the Russians are pushing on with their works there. There are seventy Russians and 1,300 Chinese employed constructing houses. Horses and bullocks are allowed to graze on the cultivated ground in the neighbourhood. The Russians have a police force there, and any Koreans who disobey Russian orders are punished.

One U.S. warship arrived at Tatsungko recently and several officers went over to Yung-ampho to have a look round. They left the place after a short stay.

With reference to the report in our last issue of the feared loss by wreck or fire of the *Ujina*, we were informed on the 9th inst. by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. that they had received telegraphic advice of the arrival of the steamer at Manila. The *Ujina* had been ashore and had to jettison part of her cargo, which consisted of rice.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 5th September.

PUBLIC EXECUTION.

The man who attempted to steal a bag of treasure last week was executed on Wednesday almost at the scene of the attempt. He was strangled in one of the stages which adjoin the old Canton wharf. A great crowd assembled to witness the execution, and cheers were raised from the junks—a brutal display. The bankers had made a point of getting the prisoner executed, although his offence was not capital, and they had to pay \$2,000 to obtain their desire. Whether the example will have the intended effect is uncertain, as the criminal appeared to belong to a desperate class. There has been no execution at the wharf since November of last year—perhaps a sign of the times, for the city seems from all accounts to be very quiet at present.

KWANGSI.

Very little news leaks through from Kwangsi. The Viceroy is probably keeping his plans dark, as, if they became a matter of common knowledge, the rebels might be able to checkmate them. I hear, however, that General Fung arrived in Kwangsi with 4,000 troops on the 10th ultimo, and found twenty battalions awaiting him. He is to take command of the army on the right bank of the river, while General Cheng will lead the division on the left. It is to be presumed that the country will be drawn from one end to the other, but this will be a work of months, and if the rebels care to shut themselves up in their fastnesses, and do not risk giving battle, the war may be prolonged indefinitely.

A GENERAL DEGRADED.

Another general has been degraded and sent down to the capital, where he lies in the Nam-hoi prison. This is General Pan Yik, and the story is not new—bribery and corruption, and unlimited license among his troops. The military men in Kwangsi have until recently been able to do whatever they pleased. A foreigner who spent some time up the river gives an interesting account of the state of affairs. Law and order had ceased to exist in the country districts, and life was held of no account. The soldiery plundered and killed whenever they desired to do so with perfect impunity. In some places the gentry were compelled to take matters into their own hands, and had robbers who had been caught red-handed executed forthwith; a kind of lynch law seems to have existed. The one district where there was no disorder was that of Kwai Yun, where the magistrate Chun had put deadly fear into the population by his indiscriminate executions.

A POPULAR MAGISTRATE.

After this dark picture it is pleasant to turn to a brighter one. The Chinese papers state that Wong, magistrate in the Shun Tak district, which lies twenty miles S. W. of Canton, has been presented with many precious gifts by the chief men of his district, which he is leaving, in recognition of the moderation and justice of his rule. I do not think that the sum spent in buying presentation gifts in China for magistrates is very large.

The Japanese battleships *Asahi*, *Shikishima*, *Hatsuse*, and *Yashima*, the cruisers *Idzumo*, *Iwate*, *Tokawa*, *Adzuma*, *Kasagi*, *Chiyoda*, *Chitose*, and *Yoshino*, the gunboats *Oshima* and *Chinman*, 13 destroyers, and a number of torpedo-boats have been lying at Sasebo, prepared for any emergencies, and awaiting orders from the Minister of the Navy. They have had three or four days' manoeuvres between Kyushu and the Korean coast.

A Northern paper is quoted by the *N.-C. Daily News* as stating that the Chinese official in charge of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs at Kalgan has telegraphed to the Waiwupu that his agent at Kiachta has informed him of the arrival in that town on the 12th ult. and succeeding days of several bands of armed Russians, who looked more like sappers and members of the Russian Engineer Corps than anything else. The agent further estimated the total number of the new arrivals at nearly 200 men. These men seemed to be preparing to make a long stay in Kiachta.

JAPAN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, 29th August.

THE MANCHURIAN QUESTION.

More than a month ago, the Japanese Government decided on addressing itself direct to St. Petersburg with regard to the Manchurian question, and though its enquiries were couched in the politest of diplomatic phrases, nevertheless one of the most serious steps ever taken by the Mikado's Government was taken then and there. The St. Petersburg Government refrained from returning any answer to the communication until the return of General Kuropatkin to the Russian capital, and the answer it then returned was as colourless as possible. I believe it requested time to reflect on the exceedingly grave question: Japan's honoured communication had raised. Negotiations are going on, however; but how they will end is a question which it is not easy to answer. The Japanese are fully convinced that in opening these negotiations they have taken a step which a nation does not often take in a century. The seriousness with which they regard that step may be seen from the tone of a carefully worded and evidently inspired article that recently appeared in the *Nichi Nichi*. The article naturally begins on an optimistic note. The writer of it has no doubt that the object kept in view by the two Governments in the present negotiations is to find out some peaceful arrangement by which their respective interests may be satisfactorily protected. Although the possibility of the negotiations ending in a rupture ought not to be lost sight of, the *Nichi Nichi* fails to see how such a contingency should result, unless Russia is bent on a policy of mischief for Japan's claims with regard to Corea and Manchuria are not of such a nature that Russia will find it impossible to accept them. The Japanese, continues the *Nichi Nichi*, are not pleased with Russia's railway undertakings in Manchuria and the lease of Port Arthur and Dalny. However, these things are now accomplished facts, and it is now late to protest against Russia's doings in these respects. On the other hand Russia cannot, says the *Nichi Nichi* (as translated by the *Japan Times*), ignore Japan's very important commercial and industrial relations with Manchuria and the increasing immigration of Japanese thither. Neither can Russia be blind to the fact that her encroachment on Corea, while it will be of little benefit to herself, will hardly be endured by Japan. "Should Russia," says the *Nichi Nichi*, "fail to take due cognisance of these patent facts and act in such a manner as to injure our existing rights and obstruct our path of progress, she must be prepared to be held responsible for consequences of the gravest character." The *Nichi Nichi* then goes on to rebuke the irresponsible effusions of the extreme war party on both sides, and calls upon its countrymen to be determined and yet dignified now that the question of peace or war is to be decided by the issue of the present negotiations. It concludes as follows:—"The principle of the maintenance of China's independence and integrity is operative and intelligible only under the present state of affairs. It loses all its force the moment the Chinese Government voluntarily surrenders its sovereign rights or alienates any portion of territory. Supposing that unfortunately war breaks out between Japan and Russia, and further supposing that China was so unwise as to cast its lot with Russia, the consequence would be that England would, in compliance with the stipulations of her alliance with us, have to join in the fight on our side. In that event, there would take place a fundamental change in the condition of things in the Far East and in the attitude of the different Powers, and how would it under the supposed circumstances be practicable to talk of China's independence and integrity? It is idle to speak, as some people speak, as though the principle in question would be operative after our supposed war with Russia or to discuss the advisability or otherwise of Japan's taking possession of Manchuria. When the *status quo* in the

Far East is once disturbed with the resulting change in the attitude of the various Powers, there is no telling what may not happen. Who can tell that in that case the partition of China might not be found to be unavoidable whether Japan liked it or not? Or who can tell either that it may not become our bounden duty to stand up for the preservation of China's independence? This is why Japan and the other Powers are so reluctant to disturb the existing state of things. Of late some people seem to be perturbed by the news that the Chinese Government has shown an inclination to rely on Russian friendship and that a secret agreement seems to have been concluded between the two countries. There is, however, no cause for uneasiness, for now that we are trying to settle the matter directly with Russia, it does not matter in the least even if China had concluded a hundred secret treaties. Moreover, in the event of a rupture between Japan and Russia, China's joining the latter country would be simply suicidal. The result of the war would be to place the Chinese Eastern Railway and all the various undertakings at Port Arthur and Dalny at the disposal of Japan and other Powers. Under these circumstances we are convinced that it is not Japan that is afraid of war, but rather Russia and China."

"It is scarcely necessary to add," says the *Japan Times* in commenting on this remarkable article, "that we are now confronted with a situation fraught with possibilities of the most momentous description. We refrain from making any attempt at predicting the future course of events; it would be foolish to make such attempts. All that we can say is that, whatever be the issue, the people are ready to support the Government so long as the Government remains true to their well-expressed aspirations."

At present therefore the settlement of the Manchurian question has been taken out of the hands of the unreliable statesmen at Peking and, as the *Nichi Nichi* says, no number of secret treaties concluded between China and Russia need cause Japan the slightest apprehension. In fact full details of a secret convention between the two countries in question were forwarded some time ago by the Peking correspondent of the *Kokumin*, but, for the reason I have just given, they excited little attention.

Details of the progress of the negotiations at St. Petersburg are of course shrouded in the completest gloom, but I should not be surprised if the world learned some fine morning soon that Japan and Russia had signed an agreement on the basis of Japan being allowed a free hand in Corea and free access to the Manchurian markets in return for her acquiescence in the *status quo* in Manchuria.

One is inclined to ask what will become of the Anglo-Japanese alliance in case this Russo-Japanese arrangement is concluded. Well, it must sorrowfully be admitted that the Anglo-Japanese alliance has for all practical purposes ceased to exist. The Japanese speak of this defunct arrangement with the respect proverbially accorded to the dead, but in spite of their native politeness and their exaggerated sense of courtesy, they do not go the length of closing their eyes to facts.

The death of Lord Salisbury naturally leads them to think and write about the alliance and though they seem to be really very grateful to Lord Salisbury for being the first Premier of an European State to conclude an alliance with Japan on a basis of equality, their view of the alliance is such as I have represented. In their eyes, the Anglo-Japanese alliance is almost as the Anglo-German Convention that preceded it. "We mourn," says the *Japan Times*, speaking of Lord Salisbury's death, "we mourn the loss of a statesman under whose administration was concluded the Anglo-Japanese Alliance which, whatever its practical value may be, nevertheless marks the opening of a new and brilliant chapter in the political history of Japan."

"Whatever its practical value may be!" The doubt expressed in this phrase is entertained to-day by many Japanese.

LORD CRANBORNE RESPONSIBLE.

If we were to follow the illustrious precedent set in the case of Cook Robin and seek to ascertain who killed the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, we might find that Lord Cranborne has as good a title to say "Twas I" as anybody.

His first attack on it was when he somewhat superciliously declared in the House of Commons that England grants alliances, does not seek them, or words to that effect. With the stoicism of their Old Samurai the Japanese did not seem to wince in the least under this home thrust, but never heless they felt it.

Lord Cranborne's next blow at the alliance was his statement made in July last, also in the House of Commons, to the effect that Great Britain recognises the exceptional position occupied by Russia in Manchuria. The Japanese were almost at fever heat before that chilly remark reached their ears, and, needless to say, it chilled them. They felt that England had done something very like calmly and phlegmatically throwing them over in the face of the whole world simply because they threatened to commit a breach of the peace if Russia did not at once leave Manchuria; and their suspicions seemed to them to be confirmed by what they recollected about the fervour of the Anglo-French entente, by the report that the Tsar intended to visit England, and most of all by a recent visit of Sir Claude MacDonald to the Japanese Foreign Office with the scathing intelligence that his Government counselled moderation. I do not swear to the accuracy of this story, but I am inclined to believe that the British line of policy at present is to prevent war and, with that end in view, to induce Japan to take all she can get by diplomatic wrangling.

To show the mournful state of doubt into which the Japanese papers have fallen about England's attitude towards the Manchurian question, I may mention that the *Jiji*, one of the best papers, if not the best paper, in this country, thinks that an agreement is about to be concluded between England and Russia, the former making to the latter some concession as to the exact nature of which there is (says the *Jiji*) yet no clue. Naturally the *Jiji* is very anxious to know what the concession may be and is much disquieted lest it take a form unpalatable to Japan.

To the average Briton, however, it will be clear that the mere fact that Great Britain is blamed by both sides is proof positive, that she is discharging the important but dangerous role of peace-maker with great success. The Japanese must not forget in their warlike exaltation—and to do them justice it is only a small percentage of them that are suffering from warlike exaltation—that though England will go a long way in order to prevent a war, she will never stand by and see Japan attacked by more than one Power. So much for the Manchurian question.

YONG-AMPHO.

As for the question of Yong-ampho, the Russians seem to be purposely delaying a final arrangement in order that they can withdraw gracefully in the event of a agreement with Japan being soon signed. Instead of closing the negotiations with a snap, they delayed and are now reopening negotiations while all the time the Japanese Minister is sending in small cart-loads of "strong notes" per day and following them up by frantic solicitations for an audience at most unseasonable times. I do not think Mr. Hayashi would be quite so strenuous if he knew that the Russians attach no great importance to Yong-ampho unless as a lever for obtaining something more desirable and that his "strong notes" are all so much waste paper, since the Yong-ampho question will be settled at St. Petersburg, not at Seoul.

However that may be, both sides are at present showing their teeth. The Japanese are now conducting military manoeuvres off Fukuoka and will soon conduct two sets of military manoeuvres almost simultaneously—an unprecedented occurrence in Japan. The usual "grand manoeuvres," as they are called, will take place at Himeji on or nearly on the Inland Sea and, besides, a big experiment, it cannot exactly be called manoeuvres, will come off in Hokkaido, the idea being to see how many troops can be brought by train (five trains per day will run) at short notice from the interior of Hokkaido to Muroran and Otaru.

Meanwhile the Russians have come down very heavily on the Japanese fishermen. On August the 1st one or several Russian warships captured 17 Japanese fishing boats and 278 men off the coast of Kamtschatka. The men and ship were brought at once to Vladivostok, where 150 of

the fishermen were sent back to Japan at the expense of the Russian Government and the rest detained. The fishermen had provided themselves with all the necessary permits but had done so in the name of Russian men of straw, of whom they had no less than 17 or 18 aboard their little fleet. Towards the end of August 19 more vessels and 490 men were captured. Whether the Russian authorities in the Far East want to force the Japanese into war or into peace by these acts it is impossible to say. Technically, the Russians are perhaps right. At all events it is improbable that the captures so far made will constitute another knot in the already tangled diplomatic situation.

FOOCHOW.

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 29th ult.:

The weather at the close of the month appears to be settled, which is more than could have been said of it any day since it opened. A break in the summer heat is looked for in August, but the break in August this year was more marked than usual. In the intervals of typhoons we had thraenings of fresh ones. Altogether the month, as far as the weather goes, has been disagreeable. The builders have been the only class who have appreciated it; they have had a distinctly good time of it.

Mr. G. H. Hubbard writes from Sharp Pak on the 25th:—

The second heavy typhoon of the season was blowing great guns here August 18, 19, and did more damage than the first of two weeks previous. The sanitarium of the Zenana Society suffered most in loss of tiles and plastering, while the residence of the head Chinese of the Cable and Telegraph (E.E.T.) Office had its roof entirely taken off. The mason wants \$1.20 Mex. to put it in shape again; no other specially great damage was done to buildings here.—The natives who are accustomed to dive at this season in deep water for the big fellow oysters are in distress again. Last year your persons were attacked by some sort of sea monster and three of them died of their wounds. Two have been set upon this month. One escaped with a cut in his hand, the other had his legs so badly mangled that he was only able to gasp when dragged into the boat, and with the words "Ai-ai ai-ai! ama!" "Alas! alas! O Mother!" he expired. The natives say the monster is a "sea-log" (*kai-keng*) and describe it as having two long arms with claws a tail like a lobster, and two paddles behind. They say they have caught such in their nets. One would go quite a way to see it but had rather not meet it while bathing, but as it seems to keep in deep water we are not yet greatly frightened. A small boy, while herding goats, claims to have seen one sporting on the surface of the water a few days ago.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BATHING AT LAICHIKOK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 5th September.

SIR,—In last night's *China Mail* there appeared a letter under the heading "An Explanation" and signed "R. E." purporting to be a reply to my letter re the indecent exposure of two men belonging to a party of soldiers who went to Laichikok by the *Miner* on the Sunday in question (30th August). First of all let me say that "qui s'excuse s'accuse" and his saying that the two bathers were astounded to see people inside the Joss House is pure invention. They had to pass close to the house to go to the place where they stripped themselves. Moreover, what about the jig on the sand on their way back and the silly antics and see-saw they played in the water scarcely ten yards from the Joss House? The least "R.E." says about this unsavoury business the better for him and his comrades. If they have been punished for their misconduct they richly deserved it, but I shall be very sorry if the innocent should also be made to pay for the guilty few.—Yours, etc.,

DECENCY.

HARSH TREATMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Kowloon Dock, 7th September.

SIR,—Will you kindly through the medium of your valuable paper, ventilate what I consider the decidedly unchristianlike feeling displayed by our Sanitary authorities. I had the extreme misfortune to lose my only brother through typhoid fever on the 5th inst. at the Government Civil Hospital. After his decease I visited his home and found everything in order. Whilst I was busy with other duties, the Sanitary authorities later in the day visited his house with a view to disinfecting whatever effects he had. I certainly do not in any way protest against that, if those in authority consider it expedient, although in this case the patient was taken to hospital directly the nature of his illness was ascertained. What I wish to call attention to is the manner in which the articles were returned the following morning by two coolies, all soiled linen, greasy boiler-clothing, and the best wearing apparel (the latter practically new), all bundled up like a heap of damp rags and deposited upon the floor, for those whose feelings are sufficiently injured to go and assort. Now I have read the correspondence regarding the unnecessary waste lavished upon the unfortunate coolies and Chinese generally as a precaution against plague, and whilst I maintain that it is a great injustice even to the humblest creatures, yet I consider that when a case amongst Europeans arises that less waste and a little more feeling might be displayed by Christians toward each other. It would be well if those superintending this department would act towards others as they would like others to act unto them, if they were placed in the bereaved persons' position, and to consider we are not surrounded as at home with those that are dear to us, but surrounded by strangers.—Yours, etc.,

W. J. RUSSELL.

THE RAIN EQUIPMENT OF THE POLICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 9th September.

SIR,—The continued inclemency of the weather—it has now rained about eleven days with only brief intervals between the showers—has forced on my attention the inadequate provision made for the Police in such circumstances. The constables on duty are obliged to be out in the torrents without shelter, and the only protection they appear to have is the short caps, which however serviceable for fine cold weather affords little protection for their legs. The military are provided with serviceable greatcoats, which reach to their boots, and give shelter from rain and protection from cold. Why cannot the Police be provided with long water-proof coats to shield them from the torrential rains of summer? I should like to know how much sickness in the ranks—in the shape of colds, influenza, and fever—is due to such exposure.—Yours, etc.,

MEMBER, H.S.P.C.A.

[With reference to this letter, it may be mentioned that about a dozen men in the Police are at present suffering from influenza and dengue.—Ed. D.P.]

THE P.W.D. IN KOWLOON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Kowloon, 8th September.

SIR,—Can nothing be done to arouse the P.W.D. to a sense of its responsibilities as regards the Kowloon roads? Residents in that unfortunate district have long since become wearied of the amusement to be derived from the peculiar methods employed in the making and repairing of the roads, and it is high time that some energetic protest be made against them.

Were the P.W.D. a philanthropic institution for providing employment for Chinese coolie labour in playing with sand and gravel, the situation might be intelligible, but the ordinary person has by this time arrived at the conclusion that he is decidedly not receiving value for the money which he pays in rates.

I confidently appeal to Kowloon residents to publicly support this protest.—Yours, etc.,

KOWLOON RESIDENT.

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LD.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., was held on the 7th inst. in the Hotel. Mr. W. Parfitt (chairman) presided and there were also present Messrs. R. C. Wilcox and W. Hutton Potts (directors), A. R. Lowe, F. D. Goddard, Ho Fook, Lo Chung Shin, Chan Chan Nam, J. Y. V. Vernon, R. J. Macgowan, W. Davies, and C. Mooney (secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—As the report and accounts have now been in your hands for some few days, I will, with your permission, take them as read. The balance at credit of profit and loss account for the half-year just ended is \$14,193.36 in excess of that at credit on 30th June last year, which may be considered satisfactory. The business of the Hotel has, in most departments, continued to improve, and net profits have been greater, although the cost of maintaining the establishment in as efficient a manner as is possible continues to increase year by year. The directors trust the shareholders will approve of the proposed transfer of the sum of \$20,000 to meet part of the cost of the installation of the electric light. It is thought that many of the fittings connected with this may deteriorate somewhat rapidly, and that it would be better not to treat the whole of the amount payable for the installation as an asset. It will be noticed on reference to the accounts that three Chinese houses on Inland Lot No. 80 have been purchased by the Company. These were much needed as quarters for the Chinese servants, there not being anything like sufficient room for them in the hotel building. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any question that may be asked, to the best of my ability.

There were no questions asked.

The CHAIRMAN accordingly moved the resolution that the report and accounts be adopted.

Mr. GODDARD seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. Ho Fook moved that Mr. R. C. Wilcox, who retired by rotation from the directorate, be re-elected.

Mr. VERNON seconded and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. MACGOWAN moved that Messrs. H. U. Jeffreys and A. R. Lowe be re-elected auditors.

Mr. CHAN CHAN NAM seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

REVIEW.

The Book of Marco Polo. Translated and Edited by Colonel Sir HENRY YULE, R.E., C.B., K.C.S.I. Third Edition, Revised throughout by HENRI CORDIER (of Paris). London: John Murray.

IN the long train of the ages three geographers stand well to the front as having by the knowledge they had assimilated, as well as from the intrinsic interest of the scenes and things they had described, led men to the study of the great world outside the narrow limits to which they had hitherto been confined; and thereby largely influenced the current of human events. The first of these geographers was a Greek, the second a Chinese, the third a Venetian. Wide apart as were the nations that gave birth to these three, their divergence in point of time was no less great; the first, Herodotus of Halicarnassus, lived in the former half of the fifth century B.C., the second, Chang K'ien, who inspired Sa-ma's great history, the *Shi Ki*, lived in the latter half of the second century, also B.C.; while the third, Marco Polo, the subject of this notice, was born in the year of Grace 1254. The paths of all three travellers overlapped in Persia and parts of Central Asia; so that we are able to make a fair comparison of the work accomplished by each. The men as well as the work, notwithstanding the difference in time and nationality, were remarkably alike, and the eventual results were by no means dissimilar. Our first light is thrown on these regions in the cuneiform

tablets of Babylon, where we learn that some twenty-four centuries B.C. they were overrun by the king of the Kassite tribe, who established in the Euphrates valley a dynasty known as the Kassite, the name still surviving in the modern Khuzistan. About nine hundred years later we find the great king of Egypt, Thothmes III, hunting elephants in, apparently, the lower valley of what is now the Karun: one of these animals, we are told, nearly killed the King, who owed his life to the timely help of his favourite general who happened to be at hand.

Practically had it not been for the indications gleaned by Herodotus during his residence at the Persian court we should not be in a position to take advantage of many accidental side lights from time to time thrown on the scene. Herodotus was a man avaricious of knowledge, and perhaps on that account not altogether free from a certain tendency to credulity when he comes to relate the experiences of others; as a rule his own observations may be thoroughly depended on, his errors not being attributable to any desire to deceive, or any weakness of judgment other than was inseparable from his age. Even his most garrulous tales contain within themselves the elements of truth, and for the most part are to be attributed to the errors of translation, or misunderstandings between himself and his interpreters. Who, for instance, could have imagined that his wondrous yarn of the one-eyed men who stole gold from the griffins, a tale which has penetrated to the four quarters of the globe, was simply a case of misinterpretation between Iranian and Oghuz?

It is satisfactory to find that the Arimaspi so curiously transformed were after all simple Orman Oghuz, whose name actually meant nothing more than "*Forest Oghuz*," proto-Turks who dwelt in the forests then more extensive in inner Asia than at present. Herodotus tells us that in the Skythian speech *arima* means *one*, and *spou*, *eye*; and curiously in the languages that ranged north of Iran *airima* meant *rest*, *quiet*. But *airima* came to mean a *desert place*, and hence *lonely*, *solitary*. So also *spou*, *eye*, was a mistaken rendering of the name of the savage tribe referred to which was really Oghuz; but *oghieuz* in Turkish means *eye*, so the unskilled interpreter, blundering as to the meaning of *orman*, substituted Iranian *airima*, which Herodotus took to mean solitary, and between them both they arrived at the strange combination of "lonely eyes," whence to "one-eyed" was but a short step. Herodotus, in fact, seems never to have acquired, at least thoroughly, any language but his own Greek, and hence was largely at the mercy of his interpreter for the time being.

Even from the mistakes of an intelligent traveller it is possible to learn much, and in this respect the three stand on a very similar basis. The Chinese Chang K'ien had, however, in regard to his knowledge of languages a distinct advantage over his predecessor. At the outset of his journey he was captured by the Hsiangnu, and remained for ten years a captive, during which time he was permitted to marry a Turkish wife. He employed the time in studying the language of his hosts, in which judging from the numerous remains embedded in his work, he must have become a proficient. Chang K'ien had less confidence than his predecessor in hearsay tales, and is always precise in distinguishing what he has seen from what has been merely reported. Speaking of T'iao chi, Sarangia, which he knew only from report, he relates:—"Old men had a tale that here were the Yeuk-Shui, "Weak" or rather "Dead Water," and the fairy Queen, Siwangmu, "but he had not seen them." Of course the tale told of the vanishing lake of Seistan and the Koh i Khoja, but Chang K'ien preferred not to commit himself to a story known only by hearsay. He too had heard the tale of the miraculous nurture of the king of the Wusun, and retailed the story as it had been related to him. We have in the tale an old-world myth which enables us to bind into one the Getic races which at the time had a wider distribution than in modern days.

The prologue to Marco Polo's work informs us that young Marco in his travels came quickly to know the language of the Tartars, their manner of writing, and their practice of war; in fact, it adds, he came to know several

languages, and four sundry written characters. Evidently missing the point, the commentators without exception have set themselves wondering over this simple fact, as if it implied almost superhuman ability. Pauthier suggests that the four written scripts were Bashpa-Mongol, Arabic, Uighur, and Chinese! It is a pity that commonsense is so rare a quality that not one of his thousand and one commentators saw the absurdity of the suggestion: of course the four written characters were those that Marco wanted in the course of his adventurous life. They were plainly Latin, Greek, Persian, and Wigur. The only other language he could have possibly found useful was Chinese, and of that, written or spoken, he certainly knew not a word. As a matter of fact Mongolian was the only eastern language that Marco really understood, and this has led to the innumerable difficulties in comprehending his topography which have so completely mystified his commentators. Another difficulty is that with all the desire to be truthful of his predecessors, Polo has not been as particular as they in separating what he had actually witnessed himself from what had been told him by others, and so has appeared to lend his sanction to statements which further consideration would have shown him were incorrect or at best questionable.

The effect of these combined causes has been that Marco Polo's commentators have had considerable difficulty from time to time in following the route taken by the traveller, and this makes it very difficult sometimes to comprehend his descriptions. Even the commencement of his road in Persia has been the subject of controversy. This arises from Marco's inveterate habit of wandering. The description of Tauris, as following medieval custom he calls Tabriz, does not begin till the 11th chapter of the first book. In the 5th he goes back to describe Mausul, which in the following chapters he supplements with a description of Bagdad so manifestly absurd that we cannot credit his having seen the city. "In eighteen days," so runs the narrative, they "come to a certain city called Kisi, where they enter the Sea of India. There is also on the river, as you do from Baudas to Kisi, a great city called Bastra (Bisra)," &c. Major Sykes, who has probably travelled more in Persia than any other European, points out the vagueness, not to say incorrectness of this description, which is so inaccurate as to point to the conclusion that it was vague information given to him by some merchant whom he met in the course of his wanderings. Major Sykes's book was only given to the public in 1902, so that it is creditable to M. Cordier that his opinion is referred to in the new book. It is, however, less creditable to his judgment that he should have rejected the emendation on insufficient grounds, as well as with bad grace. The route really followed by the travellers was, as Major Sykes points out, from Tabriz by Kashan and Yazd to Kerman. From Kerman they went to Hormos, of which a really good account is given, showing unmistakably that Polo had visited the port in person and taken careful notes. The adoption of the overland route gave an opportunity to Polo of visiting one of the most interesting localities on his journey—the small town of Saba, still called Sava, situated some eighty miles south-west of Teheran. Here they found still surviving traces of Magism in its oldest form of Tsabaism. Here was the reputed dwelling of the Three Magi who set out for Bethlehem to worship the infant Jesus as King of the Jews.

As its name indicates, Saba must have been one of the most important, as well as probably the most northern of the outposts of Tsabaism—the worship of the "Host of Heaven," in Hebrew *Tsaba Hashemim*. This religion at one time prevailed over the entire region extending from Abyssinia to Khorassan, and was the foundation of the sect of the Magi. The worship of the Host of Heaven was the simplest, and possibly the oldest form of religion practised by nations in an advanced stage of civilisation: it acknowledged but one God, but paid adoration to the lights of Heaven, and their various angels and intelligences. It prevailed especially amongst the Elamites inhabiting Fars before the arrival of the Iranians, and its influence was effective in bringing about that peculiar phase of the

Zoroastrian cult wherein the ancient Aryan deities as the *Devas* became transformed into *Parai Devas*, and were made to occupy a subordinate position as evil intelligences alongside Ahura Mazda and his hosts. The religion of the Magi, on the other hand, was a corrupt survival of the older belief, which partially existed alongside the purer faith, and in the end had a debasing influence on the teachings of Zarathustra, himself apparently an Elamite.

It is probable that the tradition of the Greek *Aithiops* was derived from the proto-Semitic *Tsaba** and was confounded with the older and still existing form *aithiops*, sparkling, flashing, as if from *aithō*, to kindle, burn. These Ethiopians always appear in Homer with the epithet *atamymōn*, usually translated *blameless*, but more likely an archaic form from *memōnā*, as if *unmoved*, *imperturbable*; the Ethiopians were above mortals, and Zeus himself at the council meeting of the gods thought it sufficient excuse for his non-attendance that he was feasting with them. Later on, a confusion of *Aithiops*, an *Ethiopian*, with *aithops*, from *aithō*, to burn, led to the erroneous impression that Ethiopian meant the "sun burnt" races of Africa; and in more modern Greek came to indicate the Negroes, and this led on to the story that not only one of the Three Kings was a Negro, but that the Queen of Sheba herself also was a full-blooded black. With regard to the placing of the venue of the story of the Magi in Persia, it seems to have been forgotten by all that myrrh and frankincense are not, and never could have been products of Persia: the tale must have had its origin in Arabia, and its transfer to Saba in the north of even modern Persia can only be explained by the original wide distribution of these Ethiopians, called by Homer "the farthest of men, living with the rising as with the setting sun." The bodies of the three Magi were even at the time of Polo's visit said to be still entire, but he honestly confesses that, though he enquired, he could find no one in the country who knew aught of the matter. So much, as Marco Polo would himself say, for the Magi.

In the thirteenth century the roads in Persia seem to have been in much the same state of insecurity as at present; and we find much mention of robbers, which is too trite a subject to linger over. In spite of all our traveller got to Hormuz, doubtless with the intention of proceeding thence by sea: his description of the place is not flattering. "It is a very sickly place, and the heat of the sun is tremendous. If any foreign merchant die there the king takes all his property." The ships he found to be wretched affairs, tied together with strings, and all he finds to commend is the date wine. To the Chinese student Hormuz has an interest as being the furthest part reached by the Han explorers. The *Heo Han Shu* tells how after travelling across Tiao-ch'i (Sarangia), Kan Ying reached the sea-coast, plainly at Hormuz. Here he was desirous of embarking for Tat'sin (Syria); the shipmen, evidently inspired from Parthia, did their best to deter him. "The sea is wide and dangerous, even with a fair wind it takes three months to cross: under less favourable conditions two years are needed. Those who attempt the voyage require to lay in provisions for three years. When they are on the water an intense longing for home seizes them, and they wish they were dead." Whether Kan Ying was dissuaded by these representations, or stronger measures were used to oppose his embarkation, at all events the only opportunity China ever had of exploring the Roman Empire was lost.

Whatever was the reason, Polo too, like his predecessor, was persuaded from embarking at Hormuz, and determined to take the overland route. Nothing very particular happened to him in the way of adventure, so he reverts to his practice in such cases of spinning yarns, and tells the story of the *Arbre Sec*, on which his commentators descant wisely, and at length. Proceeding to the towns of Tun and Kain, which Marco in oriental fashion joins in

one as Tunocain, a sudden hiatus occurs, which it is difficult to account for otherwise than by the loss of an important portion of the M.S. This is the more to be regretted as the blank hides such interesting spots as Nishapur, Meshed, and Meru, regarding the condition of which so soon after their sack by the Mongol levies we should feel much interest. Characteristically Marco fills up the gap by the introduction of the story of Hassan the "Old Man of the Mountain," famous in medieval and eastern lore. It is not necessary to follow him here; the more so as the subject is altogether outside our narrative.

When next the direct narrative is resumed it is at Sapurgan, which the commentators correctly identify with Shibberghan in the valley of the upper Oxus, still fertile, and famous for melons.

The next stage to be reached was the city of Balkh, of all the cities of Asia most famous. It had submitted to Jenghiz Khan without opposition, on the promise that its inhabitants would be spared: notwithstanding the promise the inhabitants, under pretence of numbering them, were marched in detachments into the plain, where they were murdered to a man in cold blood. Marco Polo, doubtless influenced by his former official position at the court of Kublai Khan, merely says that it was a noble city and great, though greatly ravaged and destroyed at the hands of the Tartars. As a fact, neither Balkh nor the other cities in the land have ever recovered from the havoc wrought. With the name of Balkh occurs another which neither Yule nor the latest commentator have been able to identify; this is Dogana, called properly "a country." This, of course is intended for Tokharistan, the medieval name of the country hereabouts, and so called after the Tokhars, who are mentioned in this connection by Strabo. From Balkh the road led by Talikhan and Khism into Badakhshan: so far there is no difficulty. Both commentators have, however, made a mistake as to the further route, and in taking Polo through the Taghdumbash Pamir to Yarkand. What Polo says he did was to ride twelve days from Badakhshan into a country called Vokhan (Wakhan), then go three days N.E. over "the highest place in the World" to a great lake out of which was running a fine river. He in fact followed in Wood's footsteps till he got to Issar: there he found, as Wood did, the road divided: he took the more northerly, and found himself at Lake Yeshil Kul, described by Hedin. Thence he crossed the Alichur Pamir, by Rang Kul, and so on direct to Kashgar. This country he calls Bolor, a name that led the pretended traveller "George Ludwig von" into a merry quagmire. The authorities quoted for the existence of Bolor all point to a district far to the south, but to save Polo's face Dr. Hedin actually passed a few miles from the Yeshil Kul, a small taru which he names Bulun Kul, and which in all probability accounts for Marco's Bolor. As usual when Polo actually saw the place described his remarks are pithy and succinct. Kashgar is the finest town in the province and has beautiful gardens and vineyards; which is true to the present day. The inhabitants are niggardly, which curiously tallies with the description given by Sz'ma Ts'den, that they will wrangle over a cash. When the traveller was at Kashgar he describes from hearsay the city of Samarcand, Samarkand. The contrast in the methods is instructive.

When Polo was at Kashgar, for reasons not stated but which were doubtless connected with the quarrel between Kublai and Kaidu Khans, he decided to take the southern road to China, and passed through Yarkand and Khotan. On the way he gives an account of a place called by him Pein, the identification of which is by no means clear. Yule and Cordier make it out to have corresponded with the Pimo of Yuen Chwang, but this is little help, as the Pi of the monk should be read Kwen, and the place intended was Kiriwa (Kiria), the question must remain an open one a little longer.

After Pein, wherever it may have been, Marco Polo arrived at Charchan, the Lashan or Shenshen of the older Chinese historians. We are here on classic ground, the tale of Charchan going back to mythical times. It was in fact the Troy of China destroyed, by her mythical hero Wan Wang, before his entrance into the T'ienhya. The ancient ballad sings:—

Thus spake the gods on high. "Wan Wang!
"Fear not to grasp the work, nor quail;
"Let not your pity spare; be strong!"

On Tsungyung's walls our engines ply,
Tsungyung the fair, the wide-renowned:
Worsted and wan the burghers fly;
Or captives sad in fetters bound,
To grace our solemn rites appear.

—*Shi King*, III, ii, 71.

When Polo visited it, it was, however, fallen from its former high estate, and apparently dependent on its production of jade. "The whole of the province," he adds, "is sandy, and so is the road all the way from Pein, and much of the water that you do find is bitter and bad. When you leave it you ride some five days through the sands, when you come to a city called Lop." There is no doubt that the place intended is the town called Kusze by Sz'ma Ts'ien. Ruins still exist here at a place still called Wash- or Gash-shahri, by Prejavatsk, and on some Chinese maps a lake shown in this position is made to bear the name of Khas, so that we may safely assume that in Polo's time this was really the title of the town to which our traveller transferred the name of the district. Here Marco prepared himself for crossing the desert, which in those days as at present lay in his road. Much needless wonder is expressed that he did not mention Lake Lop. As a fact the Lake as described by the few travellers who have visited it as an inconspicuous object; and keeping nearer the Altyn Tagh, he probably did not hear his guides mention it. He, however, after thirty days' journey fetched up at the rest station of Shacheo, which according to his custom he calls a city. Shacheo is practically identical with the older Tunhwang, the western outpost of China mentioned as early as the *Shi Ki*; and formed the entrance for travellers coming from the west to what was then the province of Tangut, but which more frequently in the past had been an independent state. The history of Tangut is in fact older than that of China itself. As M. Cordier points out on the high authority of Dr. Bushell, Tangut is a Mongol plural; by the Mongols the country was called Tangut or Tangwa. The Chinese in the sixth century called this people Tonghang or Tongch'ang, where the first syllable was in the lower tone, so that the combination stood for Donggar. This people, according to the *Wei Shu*, were Kiang, i.e., *Kurus*, and were descended from the Sammao of the *Yukung*. In the *Shu King* they are represented as assisting Wu Wang in his conquest of China. In the tenth century, probably under a descendant of the house of Tobar, they set up a short-lived kingdom, the Chinese title adopted for which was Ta Hia, the latter syllable representing the final *gar* of Donggar. Of this people we shall speak later.

From Shacheo, Polo went on to Sukchur (Suhcheo), and then to Campichu, correctly identified by our authors as Kancheo, the present capital of the province of Kansu. From this again both editors have mistaken the route actually traversed by the Polos. Leaving Kancheo, then, they went N.N.W. to a place which Polo calls the "city" of Etzina, which we may assume to have been a halting place somewhere on the river flowing north from Suhcheo, called in modern Chinese maps Gochina; and which loses itself in the great Mongolian depression. This will bring into order Polo's description of Karakorum, as well as account for the digression here, in which Camal and Chigitalas are mentioned. Kublai Khan, to whom the Polos were consigned, was at the time of their arrival in Tangut, probably in the spring of 1275, engaged in mortal conflict with Kaidu; he was evidently in the north, but where may well have been uncertain, as between the war in China, at the time confided to the care of Kublai's famous general, Bayam, and the ever active Kaidu, Kublai was kept on a continual stretch. Here the Polos evidently rested till they got instructions to proceed to Kublai's new capital, which, as explained in the 14th chapter of the prologue was situated at Kamanfu. This was Kaiping Fu, beyond the Great Wall, which Kublai on selecting it as the site of his court denominated officially Shangtu, "Supreme Capital."

* Both orthography and accent in *Aithiops*, as distinguished from *aithops*, point to this conclusion. In *Tsaba* the final aleph is part of the root, and corresponds with the Greek iota in the medial syllable.

Having followed Marco in his adventurous journey across Asia from Tabriz to Pechili, we may afford to pause to look at the condition of the Empire. With the fall of the T'ang dynasty in 905 the strong bond that had held together the realm of China was broken, and for upwards of half a century China was the sport of adventurers, five of whom in different portions of the land succeeded in establishing governments of momentary stability sufficient to be noticed in the official line of empire. At last for China south of the Yellow River this state of confusion was terminated by the general recognition of the rule of a new dynasty calling itself Sung, in the year 961. Sung was, however, by no means master of all China. During the troubles incident on the fall of the old T'ang, a chief of Tungusic, or more correctly Ushwar, origin, had seized the provinces of Shingking and Pechili, and with them the greater part of China north of the Hwangho. The personal name of the chief as rendered in ordinary Chinese is put down as Yelu Apaeki, but the phonetic elements when compared with Korean, point to Selör Alpgar. Anyway Selör belonged to the important Ushwar tribe of the K'itans, which in northern Asia and Russia has given to China ever since the name of Khitan. To his new empire Alpgar gave his own family title of Selör, which, as also in the case of the chief river of the district, the Sira Murem, became converted into Chinese Liao. The dynasty lasted some two hundred years, when it was overthrown by a people of kindred race, the Nüchen, or rather Jruohen Tartars, the remote ancestors of the present Manchus, who established the dynasty called in the Chinese annals the Kin, or Golden. The real name of these Nüchen was Chorcha, or in plural Chörchen, and for some centuries they dwelt about Lake Baikal, as our author correctly informs us in his notice of Karakorum. In 1208 the last king of the Wigurs, having rebelled against the Kara Khitai ruler, and fearing punishment, threw himself into the hands of Jenghiz Khan, who had by this time become an important factor in Eastern Asiatic politics. Jenghiz received him gladly; and the next year, apparently acting under his instigation, we find Jenghiz attacking Kansu. This was the first attempt of the new Mongol empire to extend its dominions to the south.

A few words of explanation are here necessary. About the year 1032 a chief who bore the Chinese name of Li Yuenhao, but who claimed to be a descendant of the old imperial house of Tobar, had succeeded in establishing a kingdom of his own in Tangut, which, as before mentioned, he called Dongar. This from a pretence to emulate the fabled dynasty founded by the mythical Yu, he rendered in Chinese as Si Hia, or *Western Hia*. This kingdom extended over the modern Kansu and the adjacent lands to the north and west, and with the contemporaneous Liao and their successors the Kin dominated the entire of northern China. Polo gives a somewhat different account of the origin of the quarrel with Tangut. Jenghiz was desirous of adding to the lustre of his house by an appropriate marriage and sent to his neighbour to request his daughter for a wife, a request indignantly rejected. As precisely the same tale is told of the leader of the Tughul Turks and the king of the Uvars in the sixth century, we may remit the story to the realms of fable. The fact, however, remains that a war, apparently unprovoked, did break out between Jenghiz and the King of Si Hia.

Marco has no hesitation in calling the prince Prester John, and states the demand to have been made in 1200, while Howorth names 1209 as the year for commencing hostilities. Probably both are in part equally right and wrong. Jenghiz, even according to Marco, must have been for some years making his preparations, and the first attack may well have taken place before the invasion of Kansu. But this notice of Polo's opens up one of the interesting questions of history. Who was Prester John?

While in Europe the Church was winning its way slowly but surely amongst the emigrant tribes who had followed the fall of the Roman Empire, in Asia the Nestorians were no less zealous in spreading Christianity amongst the northern peoples. We have little evidence of the amount of work done, but a chance document preserved mentions in the 4th

century twenty-four patriarchs and fifty-six bishops belonging to the Nestorian Church between Damascus and Eastern Tartary. Marco Polo himself everywhere along his road from Kashgar to China found Christianity firmly planted, and churches and congregations in all the cities. In 1145 the Roman Catholic Bishop of Gabala (I here quote the late A. Wylie), made a journey to lay certain complaints before Pope Eugenius III. Amongst other things he told of how a certain potentate whom he called John, who was both king and priest, who lived far to the east, and with his people was Christian, had waged war against the sovereign of Persia, and being successful had determined to start in aid of the Christians before Jerusalem. There was more than a mere modicum of truth in the story. The conquest of western Asia by the Saracens had excited the patriotic feelings of the older peoples, and though the Persian state had entirely collapsed after the battle of Nahavand, the spirit of resistance was by no means extinct, and the Mohammedan arms advanced but slowly in Transoxiana and Baktria. Although the Sassanian rulers of Persia had been zealous Zoroastrians, and had steadily repressed the growth of Christianity, the number of adherents of the faith, especially outside the limits of Persia proper, was by no means insignificant. In addition to Zoroastrianism there were numerous Jews and Manichees; but next to the religion of Zoroaster, that of Christianity was at once the most numerous in adherents and most influential. These Christians belonged to the Syrian Church, and acknowledged the teachings of Nestorius.

But Christianity had been not only widely spread in Persia, but had penetrated far into Turan, where with Buddhism we find it contending in the 10th century for predominance. In the 6th century, the Chinese records tell of the rise of a new Turkish power, the Tughuls, or "Helmet Turks," who became so powerful that in 545 the Sassanian King, Anushirwan, sent to their Ilkhan, Timur, an embassy. The result of this was soon evident: the two monarchs set upon the Indo-Skythian kingdom of the Ephthalites, which they partitioned, Persia taking the lands south of the Oxus, and the Tughuls assuming Sughd and the lands north of the great river. There are some slight indications that the ruling house of these Turks was Christian; at all events when Timur died in 558 he was succeeded by a son who bore the name of Isaac; as these were pre-Islam days, we must conclude that Isaac at all events was a Christian. The names of his successors are for the most part Persian, which does not count one way or the other.

The successors in these regions of the Tughul Turks were the Wigurs; as to whose Christianity we have several allusions. The Mohammedan author quoted by Bretschneider tells a curious tale of Baku Khan, the reputed founder in the 10th century of the Wigur state. The Wigurs at the time were believers in the *Kam*, native sorcerers, but were not content, so they sent to the Khan of Khitai, who was an "idolater" for the *Numi*. These *Numi* had a sacred book which inculcated principles of morality, especially the avoidance of injury to others, or even to animals. After a public discussion Baku Khan and his people accepted the religion of the "Book." At all events, the Mohammedan goes on to add that these Wigurs were of all the idolaters of the East the greatest foes to the religion of The Prophet. This, and all about Baku Khan, is merely untrustworthy legend, but the fact remains that after his time the Wigurs certainly borrowed from the Nestorians their alphabet and literature. Carpini in as many words calls the Wigurs Christians, and even Rubruck, though in general terms he speaks of them as idolaters, says that in all the states are mixed Nestorians and "Saracens."

The next we hear of Prester John is a letter professing to emanate from him, which was received in Europe towards the latter part of the 12th century, and bore date in 1165. Fortunately a copy of the letter addressed to Emmanuel, the Byzantine Emperor, has been preserved. After boasting of the wide extent of his dominions and his zeal for Christianity, the letter says:—"The palace in which our sublimity dwells is after the pattern of that which the Holy Thomas erected for King

Gondoforo; the ceilings, pillars, &c. are of rarest woods and over the gables are two golden apples, in each of which are two carbuncles, that the gold may sparkle by day, and the carbuncles shine by night. . . . Twelve archbishops sit on our right daily, and on our left twenty bishops. The Patriarch of S. Thomas, the Metropolitan of Samarkand, or the Bishop of Susa, each in his turn is ever by us."

It has been the custom to deride this strange epistle as a silly forgery, got up by some wondering European monk, yet the document bears on the surface evidence of its genuineness as having proceeded at least from Central Asia. In this connection the allusion to the court of the Indo-Skythian monarch and the Apostle Thomas is more than curious in the supposition that the document is a rank invention. This is accentuated by the allusion to Samarkand as the seat of Prester John. In saying so much for the genuineness of the document, we are not, however, to be taken as implying that it was an authentic oecumenical letter sent to Europe by Prester John himself, claiming the assistance of all Christian potentates in his crusade against Mohammedanism, but rather that it was an emanation from some over pious Nestorian priest, desiring in the interest of his Church to excite the sympathies of his European fellow-Christians. It will be instructive to enquire how far this explanation will meet the actual circumstances of the case.

The East is the place for romantic adventures, and one of the most wonderful of these, to which even the story of Baber must yield precedence, is the tale of the foundation by the prince, commonly known as Yelu Tashi, of the Karakhitai Empire, which for some forty years actually dominated Western Asia. Yelu's surname was certainly Selör, and his personal name was almost as certainly Tasha, *Tiger*. Selör, then, was a near relation of the last emperor of the Khitan or Liao dynasty, who ruled in North China contemporaneously with the Sungs in the south. Having incurred the enmity of the Emperor, whom he had upbraided for his imbecility in not resisting the encroachments of the Kins, just then beginning to threaten his throne, Selör fled with 200 horsemen to Urumsai. Here he roused the enthusiasm of the Wigur and other clans about, and having raised a considerable army, set out to attack the Arab invaders of western Asia. So far, including Selör's professed war cry of attacking the "Arabs," we learn from the *Liao Shu*. The result was that in the course of some years he had been everywhere victorious, and had checked Arab predominance not only in Central Asia, but had been acknowledged as suzerain from Persia to Afghanistan. He held court at Samarkand, where he resided in right royal state. In 1133 Selör died leaving the throne to his son Ilieh, probably Elias. He having died in 1155, leaving his son a minor, a regency under the Empress Posuwan, or Buswan, succeeded. It was during this regency, and when the short-lived empire was already exhibiting signs of decay, that the letter was written.

We learn but little from Chinese sources of Selör Tasha but they tell us that he was a distinguished scholar in the Hanlin, on which account he won high promotion: it then goes on to say that he became a *linya*, which the translators are unable to comprehend. The characters 林牙 are, however, capable of being rendered as "lama," and Gabelentz gives as the meaning of lama in Manchu simply priest, without any qualification of Buddhist or otherwise. In any case, the Chinese annals inform us that he was popularly known as "Lasha Lama." This in connection with the subsequent title of "Prester" is at least a remarkable coincidence, if nothing more. We learn nothing directly of his religion, except that he had a thorough hatred of Mohammedanism, which is, of course, compatible with his being either Christian or Buddhist. His grandson, the last of the family, according to the Mohammedan writers, gave his daughter in marriage to Guchluk, son of Taiyang, King of the Naimans, who had taken refuge at his court after his father had been slain by Jenghiz, an act of generosity which he repaid by taking possession of the throne. Guchluk was certainly a Christian, so the probability is that his father-in-law was one also.

True the Mohammedan writers tell us that after Guohluk's marriage he turned Buddhist, but that may very well have been to escape the reprobation of the Christians.

Marco, we have seen, applied the title of Prester John to the so-called "Emperor" of Si Hia, but he apparently forgot that it was the much more important monarch of the Kara Khitai to whom as Prester John, he in Bk. I., Ch. xlv., makes the Chorchas pay tribute.

The whole story of Prester John is an illustration of the method in which, even in communities enjoying a considerable amount of civilisation, myth becomes mixed with history. The story of Prester John has more than a mere basis in truth; it is in the majority of its incidents absolutely true, yet the story has been told with such an entire absence of historical perspective, that the tale had almost come down to the level of the wondrous adventures of our nursery hero, Jack of the Bean-stalk.

It is not from any falling off in the interest of Marco Polo's further journeys, nor from any lack of importance in the subjects and places treated of that we must now prepare to take our leave of Marco and his charming collaborators, but that the subject is too large to enter on in a notice of this sort. We should, indeed, require as portly a pair of volumes to discuss all the new subjects alone which have arisen since Colonel Yule made the exposition of Marco Polo's travels the work of his mature age. It is not speaking unkindly of M. Cordier himself to say that this conclusion must have been uppermost in his mind when writing his extra notes. The history of Marco's times in the Far East require to be written by a master hand. The trouble hitherto has been that those who knew Chinese seldom knew anything else, and were outside the great world of literary criticism, while those who had studied the other phases of the subject were content to take their Chinese from an uncritical generation of professed Sinologists with whom every scrap of writing, provided only it were in Chinese characters, was of equal value.

One subject only, which, as it has been supposed to reflect on the credibility of Polo, I may mention. Marco has been upbraided with his omission of the Great Wall in his otherwise graphic descriptions of the land; and the omission has been made use of to throw discredit on the entire of his work. There is more than one reason for his not mentioning the wall. In the first place the wall does not occupy in the Chinese mind anything like the importance it assumes in foreign eyes. It is mentioned in the *Sz' Ki* in the ordinary course of the annals, as various portions of it were built. The idea that it was a gigantic work designed and carried out by one man is of far later origin. Another and bearing more closely on Polo's omission, is that at the place where the travellers must have crossed the line, it is either altogether absent or is a mere petty earthwork, which might have been crossed absolutely without notice: this place must, as shown above, have been in about latitude 100 deg. E. The error arose from insufficient consideration of the line taken by the Polos from Kancheo to Kara Korum.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 7th September.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

DISPUTE ABOUT CHINESE SOCIETY FUNDS.

A case was called in which Pang Fi Yu (suing on behalf of himself and all the other members of the Nam Hing Tong) sought to recover from Pang Shiu Hon, a sum of \$3,015.40 said to belong to the funds of the Nam Hing Tong, a charitable society in the Fun Ling village, New Territory. Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, solicitor), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. K. Holmes, solicitor), was for the defendant.

Plaintiff in his statement of claim stated:—(1) The plaintiff is a member of and in May, 1901, was appointed the secretary of the Nam Hing Tong. (2) The Nam Hing Tong is a

Chinese charitable society established about the year 1850 by certain inhabitants of the Fun Ling village situated in the Colony of Hong-kong. (3) In the year 1887 the defendant was appointed the secretary of the said society. (4) The duties of the secretary of the said society are among others to receive the moneys of the society, to make necessary payments and to keep its accounts. (5) In the year 1896 the defendant ceased to hold the office of secretary and at that time held moneys belonging to the Society to the amount of \$3,015.40, which amount he still withholds from the society, and although frequent demands have been made to him to hand the said amount over he has neglected and refused to do so. (6) The plaintiff claims the said amount of \$3,015.40 as money received by the defendant for the use of the members of the said Nam Hing Tong. (7) The plaintiff also seeks to recover interest on the said amount from the 7th of March, 1896, till payment or judgment.

In his statement of defence the defendant admit paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of the statement of claim, but says that the plaintiff was appointed secretary of the Nam Hing Tong for one year only. (2) The defendant was not in the year 1887 or at any time appointed secretary of the Nam Hing Tong. (3) The defendant has not at any time had any moneys belonging to the Nam Hing Tong in his possession.

In his reply the plaintiff joined issue with the defendant upon his defence.

Mr. Morgan Phillips in opening the case said that upon the pleadings the issue seemed to be whether in 1887 or at any time the defendant was secretary of this society and, if he were such secretary, had he the moneys of the society in his possession which he did not hand over. The Nam Hing Tong Society was established about the year 1852 by three inhabitants of the Fun Ling village, named Pang, and all clansmen. Their descendants had become members and carried on this society until the present day. It was an ordinary benevolent and charitable society, the funds of which were used for the purposes of education, loans and charitable purposes, such as the distribution of pork about the China New Year and so forth. A secretary of the society was appointed, and in the early days, he believed, the secretary was supposed to act for about ten years if he was an able man and carried on the business of the society properly. In 1876 one Pang On Yo became secretary and acted in that capacity until the year of his death, 1887. Pang On Yo had the misfortune to be blind and so of course he carried on the business under very great difficulty, but his relative—his nephew, counsel thought—the defendant Pang Shiu Hon, acted for his blind relative and really did the duties of the secretaryship during that time. After Pang On Yo died, at the annual meeting of the members of the society in 1888 the defendant was appointed secretary in his place and he acted as secretary from that time till 1896. The books of the society during all that time were kept in the handwriting of the defendant. Each year at the annual meeting a balance was arrived at. Evidence would be given to show that from 1888 till 1896 there was a balance each year in favour of the Society, and the defendant was asked at the annual meetings to invest these balances for the society in land and he said from time to time that he would do so and when he saw a suitable plot of land he would invest the balances in that way. In 1896 at the annual meeting it was shown that there was a balance in favour of the society of about the amount claimed—1,900 taels, so many mace and candarins and 381,000 cash. Defendant was asked if he had invested this money and he said no, and said moreover that he had no money; it was gone; he had used it all and there was no money to invest in land. Then the defendant's brother Pang Wing Kwok was temporarily appointed secretary, he being supposed to be a man who might be able to get this money from his brother. He was instructed accordingly, but did not do so, and his selection indeed must have been a very unfortunate one, because subsequently he was brought before that Court on a claim for \$800 belonging to the Nam Hing Tong, and he admitted his liability and served 12 months in Victoria Gaol. Then in May, 1901, plaintiff was appointed secretary and was instructed to get this money from the defendant, who also held several title-deeds for land belonging to

the society which they had had very great difficulty in getting from him.

Evidence was then taken, and the Court afterwards adjourned.

Tuesday, 8th September.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

DISPUTE ABOUT CHINESE SOCIETY FUNDS.

On the previous day the evidence for the plaintiff had been concluded.

Mr. Slade in opening the case for the defence stated the evidence would be offered to show that the defendant never was secretary of the Nam Hing Tong. The secretaryship seemed to have gone down in the family from one head of the family to another, and this would be supported by the elders who were alive at the time the matter in dispute came on before the annual meetings of the society. These elders, too, would say that not only had the defendant never been secretary of the society but that the funds of the society had been kept with the Kwong Hing shop which failed, and when the failure took place the accounts of the shop and of the society were investigated by the elders who came to the conclusion that the only thing they could do was to save as much out of the wreck as possible and set the debts owing by members of the society to the shop against the money owed by the shop. Accordingly the balance was wiped out. During the tenure of the office of secretary by the blind man, Pang On Yo, the books of the society were kept by the defendant as accountant, and after Pang On Yo's death he, simply as an obligation to the other members of the family who were in the shop, continued to do the work until a few months before the shop failed. When Pang On Yo died the secretaryship was actually taken over by the head of the family who succeeded him, the elder brother of the eldest brother of the defendant, and it was during his tenure of office that the shop came to grief and then he was succeeded by his second brother.

Evidence was then called for the defence. The elders of the village stated in effect that the Kwong Hing shop—which the defendant now owned under a different name—had previously had the management of the funds of the Nam Hing Tong Society and that when an account was rendered there was a balance, it was true, of \$3,000 odd, but that that was written off in the books of the society as a set-off against some debts which certain members of the society owed the shop. The three elders of the village who were examined all positively swore that the defendant had nothing whatever to do with the management of the funds of the society and never was at any time secretary of the society.

When the case was closed for the defence, Mr. Morgan Phillips did not reply, but simply remarked that it was impossible for him to contest the evidence for the defendant.

His Lordship gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

The Court adjourned.

Thursday, 10th September.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

PARTNERSHIP ACTION.

A case was called, Wong Wa Po v. Tang Kai Cheung, in which the plaintiff sought to prove that defendant was a partner in the Wing Chan firm, 22, Circular Pathway, the case arising out of a judgment given on 29th May for \$1,500. A claim had been heard before the Land Court in respect of property sold by the defendant to the plaintiff and during the hearing of that claim, it was alleged, defendant described himself to the Land Court as being the master of the Wing Chan shop.

Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring, of Messrs. Deacon & Hastings, solicitors), was for

the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. E. A. Bonner of Messrs. Dennys & Bowley, solicitors), for the defendant.

Evidence was taken.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press, 7th September.)

THE INTERPORT CRICKET TEAM.

On Saturday afternoon practice on the Cricket Ground with a view to the coming Interport match took more definite shape, some dozen or so of the selected candidates taking part in a regular game on the pitch. Naturally, seeing that a couple of days at the nets is all that batsmen and bowlers have had so far, the game was one which does not call for detailed criticism. But a few notes on such play as was to be witnessed may be of interest. It cannot be said that there was much enthusiasm exhibited on Saturday. Batting and bowling alike were rather spiritless, while the fielding was most palpably lacking in smartness. To the latter remark an exception must be made in favour of Turner and Pierce, who both of them seemed to realise the importance of throwing in promptly and straight. The other players showed a singular lack of energy, not going after possible saves from a boundary, shying in half-volleys to the wicket-keeper, and failing to back up in proper style. As for the batting, Smith showed fair form and hit hard, but he (and other hard hitters) must remember that the boundaries at Shanghai are very different indeed from ours and that an uppish stroke, which here goes for a fourer, in Shanghai will probably lodge nicely in the hands of an out-field. All the bats displayed laziness between the wickets, not attempting to run hits out if there was a chance of a boundary. This is a disastrous policy, for at Shanghai, where the ground is very much larger than ours, boundaries are hard to get, and a batsman who cannot run between the wickets will sacrifice run after run. A score of 20 at Shanghai will be as tiring to run up as an 80 or 100 on our little ground. Moreover there is a hot and dry wicket to be looked forward to almost certainly.

The point of utmost importance is that our team wants coaching by an experienced player. Whatever side may be chosen, it must be raw as far as interport cricket is concerned. Why cannot a player like Mr. Sercombe Smith or one of the other old Interport representatives be persuaded to take the team in hand and polish it up, pointing out mistakes, giving advice as to differences of conditions at Shanghai, etc.? Surely one of the former upholders of Hongkong's name can be found to devote a little time and trouble to this work. There is so little time to lose that it should be taken in hand at once. In particular, the coach should insist on the differences between fielding here and in Shanghai, for good fielding will make an incalculable difference.

The remark about the shortness of time before the team starts on its way north applies with force to the duties of captain. It is absolutely essential that the captain, whoever he is to be, should get to know his men and their peculiarities thoroughly. This was not the case at the last Interport contest at Hongkong, as is sufficiently well known. Haphazard leadership only courts disaster. Especially in the management of the bowling is experienced command required; change bowlers must not be mere ventures, as is sure to happen unless their real capacities are known.

One more remark only. One or two of the better players have not turned up yet. How will it be possible to pick the strongest team if these do not make every effort to come down and get into practice? It only handicaps the selection committee. There are of course business reasons which must sometimes keep men out of the field. But it is to be hoped that all who have a chance of getting into the team, bearing in mind that less than two weeks and a half are to elapse before the chosen side starts for Shanghai, will make a special effort to assert their claims to a place.

OMPAX.

INTERPORT CRICKET.

A DUEL.

A telegram was received from Shanghai by the Secretary of the Hongkong Cricket Club on the 8th inst., stating that Kobe and Yokohama have found it impossible to send down a team. This is much to be regretted, but it is all the more to be hoped that Hongkong will be able to send up its very best side. The keenness of the contest will only be enhanced by its being now a duel between Hongkong and our old opponents, whose well known strength this year calls for the opposition of the best possible side Hongkong can put in the field.

Shanghai is meanwhile preparing busily for the coming match. Last Friday a special meeting was held and the following 17 players were selected for special practices at the nets under the coaching of Mr. Farbridge, who will captain the eleven:—

G. M. Billings, G. C. Daw, R. C. Farbridge, W. H. Jackson, A. E. Lanning, O. V. Lanning, V. H. Lanning, E. H. Lynch, A. J. McClure, K. J. McEuen, W. H. Moul, F. W. Potter, W. K. Stanion, W. J. Turnbull, W. J. Tyack, T. Wallace, and W. H. Weippert.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR SEPTEMBER.

The following cards were returned:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Dr. W. B. Drew, R.N. 99 — 11 = 79
Dr. C. A. Parker, R.N. 89 — 9 = 80
Mr. C. E. H. Davis 82 — 0 = 82
Lieut. A. C. Butt, R.N. 197 — 18 = 89
17 entries.

HONGKONG.

A Government Gazette Extraordinary issued on the 8th inst. declared Shanghai "a port or place at which an infectious or contagious disease prevails."

While a gang of coolies were working in a quarry at Sai Wan Ho, Shauiwau Road, near the shipyard, on the 6th inst., a big block of granite fell on a coolie and killed him instantaneously.

During the week ended on the 7th inst. there were notified in Hongkong one case of plague and two non-fatal cases of enteric fever (European). At noon on the 7th inst. one more plague case was reported and at noon on Tuesday two cases—all three fatal. Since then there have been blank returns only.

In the City Hall, on the 7th inst., a general meeting of the Hongkong Philharmonic Society was held. The vice-president, Sir Wm. M. Goodman, being absent, Mr. A. G. Ward occupied the chair. The only business was the passing of rules, which had been drawn up by the committee. Lady Goodman was the only lady present, the unpropitious weather no doubt keeping many away.

Complaints are being made just now about the systematic thefts of dogs' collars from dogs that are allowed to go about unattended. The only way to prevent this will be for owners to put collars made of brass or some such material on their dogs' necks, so that the Chinese thieves will not be able to cut the collars off. At the same time it is suggested that there are other dog-stealers besides Chinese in the Colony.

The *Empress of India* collision case will take place after that vessel's next arrival here. She will be stopping here for three weeks, during which time the Captain and officers will proceed to Shanghai to attend the legal enquiry. The *Kaipan* and two other Chinese cruisers, we understand, are standing by the wreck of the *Wong Tai*, which sank after her collision with the *Empress of India*, and salvaging operations are being carried on.

The following returns of the average amount of bank-notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during August are certified by the managers of the respective banks:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	3,335,319	1,800,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	11,133,377	7,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	403,967	150,000
Total	\$14,872,663	\$8,950,000

A coolie died on the 4th inst. in the E. & A. Trading Co.'s godown, 8, Praya, Kennedytown, as the result of a fall from a plank on which he was standing 16 feet above the ground.

Owing to a number of cases of cholera having been reported at Shanghai, the Hongkong Sanitary Board, at a special meeting on the 7th inst., resolved to recommend the Governor in Council to declare Shanghai an infected port.

His Worship Mr. T. Sercombe Smith on the 7th inst. gave his finding on the enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Man Chun, in connection with the collapse of a house in Mui Kwai Lane on the 19th ult., as follows:—"The death of Man Chun was caused by suffocation as the result of being buried under the wall and floors of No. 1, Mui Kwai Lane, which fell on 19th August, 1903."

In Mr. Geo. P. Lammert's auction rooms on the 7th inst. the property 26, Cochrane Street was sold to Mr. Ng Hon Kin for \$11,000, an advance of \$2,000 on the original bid. The property is described as all that piece or parcel of ground registered in the Land Office as sub-section 6 of section A of Inland Lot No. 1, held for the residue of a term of 99 years from the 5th day of October, 1849. The annual proportion of Crown rent is \$20, and the area is 702 square feet or thereabouts.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H. E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint the following Sanitary Inspectors to be Inspectors of Nuisances under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Ordinance, 1896:—M. Grice, A. Carter, P. T. Lamble, J. A. Lyon, T. P. Conolly, J. Roidie, F. Fisher, L. E. Brett, W. H. Woolley, F. Allen, W. F. Fincher, H. J. W. Gidley, J. Knight, E. Rogers, G. Hoggarth, C. W. T. Brett, D. J. McKenzie, A. Brown, P. O'Donnell, D. O'Keefe, W. F. Cullen, C. H. J. Ross, S. M. Gidley, J. R. Lee, S. Kelly, J. S. W. Brown, M. W. Cleveland, F. O. Amy, R. Duncan, R. C. Witchell, F. Jones, W. Robertson, J. Williamson, G. Sim, A. Gordon, A. Watson, R. McEwen, and J. T. Cotton.

On the occasion of his leaving the *Hongkong Daily Press* to go to Johannesburg, South Africa, Mr. T. M. Pollock, who has been associated with this paper for three years, was on the 8th inst. made the recipient of a handsome present of Chinese silver-ware from the Staff. The editor made the presentation in complimentary terms, and Mr. Pollock suitably responded. Later in the evening Mr. Pollock was entertained in the Hongkong Hotel by the Inspectors and Sergeants of Police. Mr. H. G. Baker, Chief Inspector of Police, presided, and there were also present Inspectors J. Gauld, D. McDonald, W. G. Warnock, P. McNab, W. Withers, and D. Gourlay. Sergeants A. McSwayed, J. Grant, Earner, Cameron, and R. McDonald, Armourer Sergeant Hawkes, Inspector R. McEwen, Mr. J. J. Spooner, etc. The Chief Inspector made the presentation, which consisted of a silver spirit-flask and a cigarette-case suitably inscribed.

One day recently a Chinese robber was publicly strangled at the steamboat wharf at Canton, the execution being carried out in the usual method employed. The victim was placed in a cage with his head through an aperture in the top, which aperture just fitted his neck; then the support on which he stood was knocked away and he was left hanging there. Death very soon released the man from his agony. According to some European eye-witnesses of the affair, the execution was carried out with disgusting cold-bloodedness and the man's body was covered with open sores indicative of severe beatings having been inflicted before death. The body was left exposed for 36 hours afterwards. We are informed that the crime which the unhappy man thus expiated was the theft of a bag containing \$1,000 from a fellow-countryman who was sitting on the wharf awaiting a boat. The thief snatched away the bag, threw it into the river and then dived after it. He succeeded in bringing it from the bottom, but when he came to the surface he was promptly seized by a sampan man and handed over to the authorities. This version of the story, which has reached us in Hongkong, is somewhat different from that given by our Canton correspondent in his letter in another column.

Cwing to the indisposition of Captain F. W. Lyons, the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, Mr. F. R. Hallifax this week came in from the New Territory to take his place.

At the Public Works Department on the 7th inst., Mr. L. C. Rees, Principal Land Surveyor, put up for auction Shaukiwan Crown Lot No. 398, comprising 3,000 square feet, at an upset price of \$800. There was only one bid, that of Mr. Ip Lam Sau, to whom the property was knocked down at an advance of \$200 on the upset. There is a Crown rent of \$20.

The match at the Bowling Green, Kowloon, last Saturday afternoon, between teams representing Kowloon and Kowloon Dicks, was postponed owing to the death of Mr. Russell, an employee at the Dock. Mr. Russell, who had only been about six months in the Colony, was seized with enteric fever and died on Saturday morning in the Government Civil Hospital after about five days' illness. His wife and family are at home. The deceased, who was about 35 years of age, was buried at Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon.

It is a common spectacle at the flower market in Wyndham Street to see intending purchasers, especially ladies, surrounded by a dozen or so flower-vendors, each one pressing on the prospective buyer the superiority of his own wares, to the accompaniment of a chattering that is bewildering in the extreme. Of late, however, the police have been endeavouring to put a stop to this annoying practice, and with good results; the summary seizure and destruction of the bouquets and wreaths belonging to the salesmen guilty of such misdeeds should serve them a lesson for their better behaviour in the future.

There arrived on the 7th inst. from St. Petersburg and Singapore His Imperial Russian Majesty's training ship *Okean*, the former port having been left on 23rd June and the latter on the 2nd inst. Captain Egorieff is in command. The *Okean* is an 18 knot vessel of 11,000 tons displacement and was launched at Kiel in 1901. In the first instance, the *Okean* is a coal transport. She will carry 4,000 tons of coal and steam 10,000 miles, with 800 tons for her own supply, at reduced speed. She is fitted with Thornycroft, Schulz, Yarrow, Belleville, and Niclausse boilers for instructional purposes. There are over 300 stokers and mechanics on board. They are divided into six batches and each batch takes its turn in the engine-room. The *Okean* is on her way to the Far East, and then returns at leisure to Russia. There the crew will undergo a practical examination upon what they have learnt during the present voyage. The successful ones will then be in a position to undertake important duties as overseers or foremen in charge of stokers, firemen, and mechanics.

H.M.S. *Pique*, Capt. H. C. Reynolds, was paid off at Devonport on the 4th ult.

The *Cressy* and the *Leviathan* are expected to leave for Weihaiwei this week.

The gunboats *Bramble* and *Bridemart* came in from practice on the 4th inst.

Ten minutes after the *Argonaut*, the battleship *Albion* left her moorings on the 5th inst. for Weihaiwei.

The German ship *Silvia* (Captain F. Eger) arrived on the 8th inst. from Hamburg, which she left on the 2nd August, with 40 1st-class officers, 20 2nd-class officers, and 1,002 soldiers on board, bound for the North.

The German gunboat *Tiger* arrived on the 8th inst. from Swatow.

Still another story about the movements of H.M.S. *Argonaut*, which was reported as having sailed for home last Sunday. It now appears that the *Argonaut's* orders do not carry her further than Singapore, and that she will probably remain at that port about three months. The cruiser did not fly a paying off pennant while in the harbour; this fact has been much commented on, and seems to bear out the latest version.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Foochow, 23rd August.—The tea market remains in the same quiet state as for some weeks past. Business has, no doubt, been checked by the continuous rising exchange, though to some extent, in Foochow at any rate, by the smallness of the stock offering. The arrival of Congou to date, namely 161,000 half-chests, shows a falling off of 60,000 half-chest as compared with last year. The supply of Oolong, however, is in excess of last year by 35,000 half-chests. In the absence of business in this last named description, the unsold stock has accumulated to 106,000 half-chests. The export to Europe is 7,658,000 lbs.

The total arrivals, settlements, and stocks to date are as follows:—

	Arrivals.	Settlements.	Stocks.
	1903-1904.	1903-1904.	1903-1904.
Congou	161,000 half-chests.	146,422 half-chests.	10,548 half-chests.
Souchong	81,000 "	75,321 "	5,180 "
Oolong	108,924 "	2,921 "	106,000 "
Scented Teas	19,500 boxes.	19,507 boxes.	903 boxes.
Pekoe	7,000 chests.	6,837 chests.	127 chests.
* For 138,000 half-chests and 21,000 boxes.			
* For 139,500 half-chests and 20,836 boxes.			

Amoy.—The export from Amoy and Formosa to the United States to August 31st amounted to 19,639,942 lbs. of Tamsui Oolong, and 2,887 lbs. of Amoy Oolong, showing an increase of about 200,000 lbs. over the returns for the corresponding period of last year. To London the export this year has been 128,581 lbs. The arrivals at Amoy this season have been 233,448 half-chests of Tamsui Oolong (over 30,000 less than last season), and 615 half-chests. Latest freights are:—To New York, via Pacific, 11 gold cents per lb. gross via Suez, 25 — per ton. London rate, 15 — per ton.

Hankow, 2nd September.—Business reported since the 26th ult. consists of 2,719 half-chests of Oufans at 12s. 12 to 12s. 11 per picul. The shipments to Shanghai on Native account have amounted to 5,097 half-chest. The entire business to date as compared with the corresponding circular of last year is estimated as under:—

	1903.	1902.
	half-chests.	half-chests.
For London, America and		
European Continent	193,828	145,474
For Russia	529,226	507,000
	723,054	652,474

A suggestion that Indian planters should take up the production of Oolongs has been considered by the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association and referred by them to the Indian Tea Cess Committee. It is proposed that an Indian tea planter of experience be sent to Formosa to learn how the peculiar flavour of these teas is obtained, as consumers in America are willing to pay a higher price for these than for any black tea.

A Reuter's telegram of the 9th inst. states: Russia has raised the duty on Ceylon and Indian teas, imported through the European frontier or the Black Sea, from 31½ roubles per picul to 33 roubles. The duty on Chinese tea is not raised, but fresh regulations are instituted to ascertain its origin and place of despatch.

SILK.

Canton, 10th Sept.—Exports.—Silk.—Re-reels. No settlements to report in this class. Country prices continue to rule very firm and, at present Exchange rates, show a laying down cost which American buyers are unable to approach. Filatures.—The improved enquiry for Europe alluded to a fortnight ago was maintained during the earlier part of the fortnight, but latterly business has been almost completely blocked by the daily advancing Exchange. In spite of this fact dealers not only maintain a very firm front but, in view of the excessively high cost of fourth crop cocoons, even incline towards higher prices as shown by subjoined quotations. Last prices paid are \$930 for Tung Wo Hing 10/12 \$90 for King Song 13/15, \$910 for Yu King Lun 11/13, \$89 860 for Kwong He 11/13, 13/15. In 9/11 no recent transactions have taken place. Buyers offer \$950,960 for silk like Wwong Yuen On, Wing Wo Lun, 9/11, held for \$10 per picul higher. Purchases of "Native" filatures have been unimportant. Local prices are firm, but somewhat irregular. Yung Hing 11/13, 13/15 sold this week at \$815 average, and a day later obtained \$825. Other equivalent marks could, however, probably be had at the former price. 14/18 has been done at \$770 and 10/12 at \$800. Short-reels.—A marked improvement has been shown in the demand from America, resulting in a very fair business in Best and Good Medium grades at an advance

of \$10 per picul on previous rates. Earlier sales include Min King Lon, Kwong Shun Cheung at \$900, while latterly Kwong Wo Tai has sold at \$520, Wing Hing Lun, Kun King Cheong, Chung Sun Hing at \$910, Tung Wo Hing at \$890. With the advancing Exchange, prices have now got somewhat out of hand. Waste Silk has also materially improved its position. There has been more enquiry from the home markets and considerable business has resulted up to \$133 for Steam Ext. Sel. opened and \$125 for unopened. Country prices have also become much firmer and rule very strong.

SUGAR.

Hongkong 11th September.—The position of the market is the same as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.50 to \$8.55 pcl.
Do. " 2, White	7.65 to 7.70 "
Do. No. 1, Brown	6.20 to 6.25 "
Do. " 2, Brown	6.00 to 6.05 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.35 to 8.40 "
Do. " 1, White	7.55 to 7.60 "
Do. " 1, Brown	5.95 to 6.00 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.80 to 5.85 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.80 to 12.85 "
Shekloong "	10.85 to 11.00 "

Amoy, 31st August.—The f.o.b. quotation for Amoy White No. 1 is \$11.00 per picul. The total export to date has been 3,593 piculs. Candy is quoted at \$10.50 to \$11.00 and the export this year has amounted to 21,840 piculs.

RICE.

Hongkong 11th September.—There has been an excellent harvest in Kwang Tung province and the prices are consequently declining.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.75 to \$3.80
" Round, Good quality	5.30 to 5.35
" Long	5.45 to 5.50
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.95 to 4.00
" Garden, " No. 1	4.55 to 6.00
" White,	5.35 to 5.40
" Fine Cargo	5.55 to 6.00

OPIUM.

Hongkong, 11th September.—Since the 27th ult. the movements in the Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian
Stocks on 27th ult., 1903.	787	2,167	637	2,604
Aug. 27. Imports per <i>Ballaarat</i>	362½	—	—	12½
Sept. 1, " "	Kumrang	530	85	—
" 8, " "	C. Apear	45	—	—
	1,149½	2,732	722	2,729
Less Exports to Shanghai	138	211	50	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	267½	784	33	172

Estimated Stocks this day:— 744 1,737 634 2,557
Bengal.—After the receipt of the auction rates, the market opened at \$1,097½ for Patna and Benares; at the close a steady feeling is apparent and the quotation is \$1,102½ for both descriptions. Bargains, 1,863 chests.

Malwa.—Rates have advanced about \$20 all round as follows:—

New	\$ 960
2,3 Years old	1,020
3 4	1,050
Oldest	1,080

Persian.—Good business has passed in best qualities, quotations for which are \$300,840 long, and \$740,750 square.

11th September.

	Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty.
Malwa New	\$ 960 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	1,020 to — do.
Malwa Older	1,050 to — do.
Malwa V. Old	1,080 to — do.
Persian fine quality	810 to — do.
Persian extra fine	820 to — do.
Patna New	1,105 to — per chest.
Patna Old	1,110 to — do.
Benares New	1,102½ to — do.

CAMPHOR.

The following table shows the export of Camphor and Camphor Oil from Japan in the past few years:—

	Camphor.	Camphor Oil.
1899...	2,759,625 kin	1,100,228 kin.
1900...	3,280,715 kin	450,973 kin.
1901...	4,165,757 kin	1,561,970 kin.
1902...	3,953,211 kin	630,985 kin.

COTTON.

Hongkong 12th Sept.—At almost previous quotations, a moderate business has been done. Stock about 1,700 bales.

Bombay	23.50 to 24.50 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon	24.50 to 26.50 "
and Dacca	"
Shanghai and Japanese	28.50 to 29.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo	28.50 to 29.00 "
Sale	— 600 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 11th Sept: Shortly after the departure of last mail a brisk demand set in, and a considerable number of bales changed hands, and but for the prevailing tightness of money amongst the natives a much larger business would have been put through. Holders, however, were not able to maintain their prices, and being anxious to quit in face of heavy supplies and a rising exchange, had to submit to a further decline of \$1 to \$2 per bale. The inquiry has been general, almost all counts being dealt in; No. 10s, receiving by far the largest amount of attention. Spot stocks of desirable spinnings are now practically all sold, and the bulk of sales noted below are for September-October delivery. At the close the demand continues and dealers appear to be eager buyers but, considering the state of the Bombay market and the recent decline in exchange, a bolder front has been assumed by holders, and a temporary check in the downward course is for the moment being experienced, the market meanwhile remaining steady.

Local Manufacture:—The firmness of the local mill has more or less checked business, but a fair demand has been experienced and sales of 400 bales No. 1 s. at \$101, and of 300 bales No. 12s. at \$103 are reported.

Japanese Yarn:—Have been in more enquiry but at a decline of 5 cents to \$2 per bale, sales reported being about 1,525 bales No. 20s., say, 875 bales Red Peacock at from \$124 to \$126, 300 bales Blue Fish at \$124 to \$124, 350 bales Yellow Joss at \$123, and 50 bales Two Stags at \$124.

Raw Cotton:—There has been nothing doing in China staple, the market being bare of stock. New crop is expected to arrive in about a fortnight; the yield is reported to be up to the average. In Indian kind: sales of about 750 bales Bengal have been reported at from \$24 to \$24, with an estimated stock of about 2,000 bales. Quotations are: Indian \$20 to \$26, and China \$27 to \$30.

Exchange on India gradually advanced till it reached Rs. 14½, when it commenced to recede, and closes to-day weak at Rs. 13½ for Post. On Shanghai 7½ and on Yokohama 90.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended 28th ultimo, viz:

Indian:—The tightness of money amongst the Natives is checking business. Sales reported are 3,272 bales No. 10s., 390 bales No. 12s., 1,000 sales No. 16s. and 1,850 bales No. 20s., prices continuing unchanged and market closing steady. The stock was estimated at 38,000 bales.

Japanese:—There has been rather more enquiry and sales of about 3,500 bales were effected on the basis of Tls. 84 to 91 for No. 16s., and Tls. 91 to 96 for No. 20s., prices showing a decline of half to 1½ Tls. and market closing weak.

Local:—Continue in limited enquiry; sales reported amounting to 2,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 84 for No. 10s., Tls. 86 for No. 12s., Tls. 88 to 89 for No. 16s., and Tls. 90 for No. 20s., market closing steady.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 12th Sept.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—		per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20,	...	\$90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24,	...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24,	...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32,	...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42,	...	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—		per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	...	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	...	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	...	3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	...	4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	...	2.91 to 3.25
58 to 60 "	...	3.50 to 4.00
64 to 66 "	...	4.25 to 5.75
Fine	...	6.00 to 8.50
Book-folds	...	5.00 to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	...	0.85 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	...	2.30 to 2.80
7lbs. (32 ")	...	2.50 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	...	2.50 to 3.00
7lbs. (32 "), "	...	3.10 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	...	3.30 to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½	...	4.75 to 7.30
to 14 lbs.	...	

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.70 to 6.00
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Brocades—Dyed	—	to	—
DAMASKS—			per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.09	to	0.15
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.27	to	0.63
Velveteens—18 in	0.17½	to	0.23

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.25 to 5.00
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Woolens--	per yard
Spanish Stripes- Sundry chops	0.75 to 2.25
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00

		per piece.	
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.		6.95	to 9.75
Assorted		7.10	to 9.80
Camlets—Assorted		12.50	to 33.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches		12.50	to 21.00
Assorted			

Orleans-- Plain	9.50	to	--
			per pair
Blankets-- 8 to 12 lbs.	6.60	to	1.75
Fine quality	1.60	to	2.50

METALS—		per picul
iron Nail Rod	4.30	to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.30	to —
Swedish Bar	4.35	to —
Small Round Rod	4.55	to —
Hoop 2 to 11 2 in.	6.40	to —
Wire, 16 25	9.70	to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.00	to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	7.75	to —
Australian	7.75	to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	9.00	to —
Vivian's 14 20 oz.	9.00	to —
Elliot's 14 20 oz.	39.00	to —
Composition Nails	61.00	to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.00	to —
Tin	78.00	to —

Tin-Plates		box, per
		7.10 to —
		per cwt. cas
Steel 1 to 2	...	6.40 to —

SUNDRIES -		per picul
Quicksilver	160.00	to —
		per box
Window Glass	4.75	to —

SHANGHAI, 3rd September (from Messrs. Noel Murray & Co's Piece Goods Trade Report). The market remains in the same state of quietness as depicted in our last circular, the high rate of exchange and the heavy rate of Native interest (about 35 p.c.) rendering business well-nigh impossible and reducing clearances to a very small amount. Here and there one hears of some order having been placed with dealers from the various outports, but the only business we have heard of is the purchase of some 84-lb Grey Shirting by the Tientsin merchants from second hands. Advice from the home markets show prices to keep firm, but there is certainly not much inducement to buy under the present circumstances, although we have been told that several lines of American Drills and Sheetings have been bought in New York for this market. Cotton in Liverpool is quoted 6.80d. and we hear a considerable decline would be accepted for forward delivery. Imports from England for the past month amounted to twenty-three million yards. According to advices from Manchester, Liverpool and New York, it appears as if the next Cotton Crop (American as well as Egyptian) is going to be deficient both in quantity and quality. Any shortage in the 1904 crop, coming as it will on the top of the present one, which was a rank failure, will offer to speculators in the States a further opportunity to squeeze, and we shall not be surprised to see half-a-dozen corners in cotton for every one we had to experience this year. The natural deduction is, that the high prices ruling the better part of this year, will be still further accentuated in 1904, and affect piece goods all the more, as there will be no cheaply bought cotton left in the hands of manufacturers, by the help of which they have been able to accept some of the low limits which have gone through recently, rather than close their works. In some cases, in England as well as in America, Spinners have resold their holdings of Raw Cotton with considerable profit and closed their mills, rather than sell their production at a loss. The high prices now ruling, and which apparently have come to stay for yet another year, will naturally reduce the purchasing power of the people and curtail imports much further. The stocks here are not over heavy; especially when it is taken in account that only very small supplies are likely to arrive for several months to come, and then will easily be taken off if we have anything like an Autumn trade. The replacing of these stocks can only be accomplished at a considerable sterling advance, especially so as far as staple goods are concerned. The advance in exchange has permitted dealers to grant slightly improved limits for Fancies and Prints, in which a small business has been transacted during the past week, though nothing of any weight, as dealers, shy as they are to operate in a rising exchange, still hope for higher rates.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

MANILA.—The latest quotations by mail are:—

HEMP.		
Albay, current	...	\$18½
Leyte, do.	...	\$22½ to 23½
Dnet, do.	...	\$16
Na. Caceres (Cintanduanes)	...	\$19
Sorsogon	...	\$23.00
SUGAR		
Hilo No. 1	...	\$5½
" 2	...	\$4½
" 3	...	\$4½
" Assorted	...	\$4½

COFFEE.		
Sun-dried	...	\$6.25
Laguna	...	\$5.75
F. M. Manila	...	\$6.25
RICE.		
Saigon Blanco	...	\$7.25
Rangoon	...	\$7.25

LEAF TOBACCO.

		per quinta	
Isabela,	1901 -- 1st to 5th c'ass	\$15	to \$42
Cagayan	" -- " " " "	\$11	" \$38
Isabela,	1932 -- " " " "	\$16	" \$36
Cagayan	" -- " " " "	\$10	" \$32
Barili 1st class.	Few stocks offered	\$13.50	
" 2nd "		\$11.00	
" 3rd "		\$9.50	
Abra, Norte.	No stocks.		
Union.	" "		

HANKOW.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	per picul.
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 34.00
Do. Seconds	29.50
Buffalo hides, best selected	} „ 23.00
Do. do. 10/35 lbs.	
Do. do. 35/60 „	
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour, average 2 lbs., 50 p. c. short, 30 p. c. med. and 20 p. c. long hair	60.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3lbs. each	11.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	14.80
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	13.50
Green China Grass, Szechuen	12.75
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	12.30
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and or Macheng	12.20
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	Tls. 12.50
Animal Tallow	12.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	22.00
Do. Plum do.	23.00
Feathers, grey and or White Duck	19.50
Do. do. do. Wild Duck ..	21.50

Per steamer Kiautschow, sailed on 2nd September. For Rangoon:—17 cases clocks. For Colombo:—500 bags sugar, 500 bags beans. For Aden:—47 rolls matting, 25 cases preserves, 2 cases palm-leaf fans, 2 cases camp'orwood boxes. For Naples:—360 cases cassia, 375 half-chests tea, 35 packages tea, 20 bales rattans having. For Genoa:—298 bales raw silk, 25 cases essential oil, 20 bales canes, 2 cases cocoons, 1 case waste silk, 1 case matting. For Antwerp:—800 bales bamboo, 250 bales bamboo scraps, 30 half-chests tea, 15 cases ginger, 7 cases cigars. For Antwerp and Hamburg:—105 cases bristles. For Antwerp and London:—40 bales split bamboo. For Antwerp, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Hamburg and London:—5 bags ore, 3 cases curios. For Amsterdam:—360 boxes ginger, 61 rolls matting, 16 cases tea stick, 8 bales canes, 3 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases rattan core, 1 case rice paper. For Amsterdam and Rotterdam:—325 cases ginger. For Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Hamburg:—150 cases ginger, 100 cases cassia. For Rotterdam:—453 half-chests tea, 100 cases teastick, 72 bales canes, 60 cases ginger, 10 cases ginger. For Bremen:—989 half-chests tea, 22 rolls mats, 18 cases ginger, 4 cases sundries. For Bremen and Hamburg:—89 bales feathers. For Hamburg:—626 half-chests tea, 200 boxes tea, 158 bales feathers, 115 cases cassia, 90 cases ginger, 76 cases preserves, 47 cases ginger, 29 cases effects, 27 bales canes, 13 cases blackwoodware, 5 cases preserves, 5 bales cassia, 4 cases feathers, 2 cases bristles. For Hamburg and London:—426 packages tea. For London:—687 rolls matting.

Per steamer Tientsin, sailed on 5th September. For London:—1,071 boxes tea, 75 bales waste silk, 200 bales waste (option Manchester), 45 cases chinaware, 13 cases woodware, 5 cases china earthen ware, 4 cases copper gongs. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Trieste:—50 bales waste silk.

Per steamer *Neslor* sailed on the 3rd September. For Marseilles:—100 bales waste silk. For London: T. a. 50 units at Macao, particulars unknown. 37 boxes at Amoy, particulars unknown, 100 boxes scented paper (1, 100 lbs.) 134 boxes scented or Pekoe (2, 8 1/4 lbs.) 2,208 cases preserves, 300 casks preserves, 10 rolls matting, 50 bales feathers, 38 packages effects, 28 packages su dries. For London and Glasgow:—100 casks preserves. For Glasgow:—25 casks preserves, 71 packages tools, etc. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London and Goolg:—285 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—25 cases preserves. For Amsterdam:—300 bales tobacco.

Per steamer *Salazie*, sailed on 8th September. For Marseilles:—114 bales raw silk, 150 bales waste silk, 7 bales hair, 11 cases silks, 29 packages tea. For Milan: 10 bales raw silk, 135 bales cocoons. For Lyons:—326 bales raw silk, 1 case silks, 3 packages tea. For Havre:—42 packages tea. For London:—2 cases silks, 1 case effects.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 11th September, 1903.—Business generally continues extremely dull, and with the exception of a small investment enquiry there is nothing of special interest to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed at \$630, and further small parcels are enquired for at the rate. London is slightly higher at £64. Nationals have been booked at \$28.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have sold and are in further request at \$500. China Traders after sales at \$61 and \$114 are enquired for at the higher figure. Cantons have been booked at \$81 and \$18 1/2, closing with sellers at the higher rate. Yangtzes and North Chinas are unchanged, and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs can still be procured to some extent at \$25. Chinas have been booked at \$86 and continue in demand.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have still further receded, and are now procurable at \$33. Indo-Chinas are wanted at \$32 1/2 with no shares obtainable under \$83. China and Manilas are lower with sellers at \$19 and \$4 for the old and new issues respectively. Douglases after dropping to \$34 are in some request at \$36. This company we hear will pay the usual dividend of 6 per cent. per share for the year ending 30th June, 1903. Star Ferries are easier with sellers at \$26 1/2 and \$6 1/2 for old and new shares respectively. Shell Transports have sold and are in further request at £1. 2s.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are in some demand, and after sales at \$92 1/2 have advanced to \$94 with sales and further buyers. Luzons continue on offer at \$10.

MINING.—No business is reported under this head. Raubs are easier with sellers at \$9.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—H.K. and Whampoa Docks are steady at \$204 with small sales and further small buyers at the rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Godowns continue in request at \$86. New Amoy Docks can be placed at \$37 1/2. Farnhams are reported sold in the North at Tls. 147.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$154 and \$154 1/2 closing with sellers at the latter rate. Kowloon Lands and West Points are obtainable at quotations. Humphreys Estates have been booked at \$104. Hongkong Hotels are steady at \$145 ex the dividend of \$6 per share for the half-year ending 30th June, 1903 paid on the 7th instant. Oriente Hotels continue in request at \$57.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs have sold at \$15 and are still enquired for. No business is reported in the northern stocks.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements close at \$22 with probable buyers at the rate. China Borneos have declined to \$94 sellers. Watsons have been booked at \$144 and are wanted. Ropes can be procured at \$145. China Providents are on offer at \$94, and China Light and Powers at \$54.

MEVOS.—Hongkong Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on the 14th instant. Douglas Steamship Company, Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on the 26th instant; transfer books close on the 16th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$63 sales & bys. (London, £64.)
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$28 sales
B. Shares	£8	\$28 sales
Four. Shares	£1	\$10
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$51 sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40 sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$94 sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$34 sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$94 sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$91 buyers
Sugar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$270 buyers
Philippine Tobacco Trust, Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$18 sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 36
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 10 sellers
Latou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 10 buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160
Hongkong	\$100	\$15 buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47 1/2
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$22
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140 buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12 60
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$7 sellers
Hk. Steam Water	\$100	\$320 sellers
boat Co., Ltd.	\$0	\$15 buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$145, ex div.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$250 sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$86 buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$145 sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$204 buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$182 1/2 sellers
China Fire	\$60	\$86 1/2 buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$61 1/2
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325 sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 225 sellers
Straits	\$20	\$1 buyers
Union	\$100	\$500 buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$135
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$154 sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$104 sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35 sales
West Point Building	\$50	\$50 1/2
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10 sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15 buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$6 1/2 sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$50 cent sellers
Punjoni	\$11	\$1.65 buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$30 cents buyers
Raubs	18 10	\$9 sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$37 1/2 buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$57 buyers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9 sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$19 sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$55	\$14 sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$50	\$36 buyers
Indo-China S. N.	\$15	\$33 sellers
Shel Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£1. 2s. 0d. buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$26 1/2 sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$16 1/2 sellers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 14 1/2
Tobacco Planting Co.	\$53	\$50 nominal
United Abestos	\$5	nominal
Do.	\$4	\$9.10
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$209
Watkins Ltd.	\$5	\$23 buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$8 buyers
	\$10	\$144 sales & buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 4th September (From Messrs J. P. Risset & Co.'s share report):—There has been a slight improvement during the week in two of our principal stocks, viz.—Farnham, Boyd, & Co., and Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. Indos have remained very quiet with few transactions. Money continues exceedingly tight, and there seems no hope of an immediate improvement in this market; Exchange has advanced to 2/7 1/2 and at closing the rate is 2/7 1/2. BANKS.—H. and S. Banks.—No business is reported locally; shares are offering in this market at \$630, the London quotation is unchanged from £65.

Nationals steady at \$28. MARINE INSURANCES.—The only business reported is in Yangtzes at \$133 1/2 ex 73, and 135 ex 72, to Hongkong. FIRE INSURANCES.—No business reported. SHIPPING.—Indo-Chinas.—The market opened on the 28th ult. with sales for cash at Tls. 58 1/2 and 60/61 December. On the 29th, cash shares were placed at 60, and at 60 for December. On the 31st, August and September transactions are reported at 60, and at 61 for November. On the 1st, shares changed hands at 60; 59 September, and 61 December. On the 2nd, a transaction is reported at 59 December, and on the 3rd, 59 November and December. At closing the market is slightly stronger, cash shares being enquired for at 59, and probably a better rate could be obtained for a firm offer of shares. H. C. & M. Steamboats.—Nothing doing, quotation nominal at \$35. Douglases steady at \$40. Shanghai Tug and Lighter shares could be placed at Tls. 55. Taku Tugs.—Our last quotation from the North is sales at Tls. 42. DOCKS, WHARVES.—Farnham, Boyds.—A considerable business has been effected in this stock. This market opened on the 28th ult. with cash shares at 127 1/2, 130 September, 132 1/2 October and 138 December. On the 29th, 127 1/2/130 were paid for cash shares. On the 31st, cash 130/132 1/2, 132 1/2 September, 135 October, 136 1/2 November and 137 December. On the 1st, cash shares were placed at 135, 136 and 137 1/2, 140/141 1/2 December. On the 2nd cash and September Settlements, at 135, 14 1/2 November, 141 1/2/140 December. On the 3rd, 140, 136 cash; 140, 141 1/2, 145 December. The market closes slightly stronger with a demand for cash shares at quotations. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves' shares have been placed at Tls. 215 and 217 1/2. There is no further business reported in stocks under this heading. SUGAR CO.—No business reported. MINING.—No business reported. LANDS.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 101 cash. INDUSTRIAL.—All cotton stocks are offering at quotations without finding buyers, the only transaction reported during the week being in Low Kung Mows at Tls. 40. Maatschappij & Co. in Langkats.—The market opened on the 28th with sales at Tls. 265 for cash and September delivery; 277 1/2, 275 October, 270 November, 272 1/2 December. On the 29th, at 265, 28 1/2 December. On the 21st, 270 September. On the 1st 270/267 1/2 September, 272 1/2 October, 280 December. On the 3rd, 267 1/2, 270 cash, 270, 267 1/2, 272 1/2 September, and 280 November. The market closes with a demand for cash shares at 270. Sumatras.—A sale is reported at Tls. 54. Shanghai Waterworks are offering at Tls. 425. STORES AND HOTELS.—Centrals have been placed at \$24 and 24 1/2; Hotel des Colonies Tls. 15, and Astor House 28 29 1/2.—The report and accounts of this Company have been issued; the Directors pay a dividend of 10 per cent per annum, absorbing \$56,000, writing off goodwill account \$37,533.99, and carrying forward to a new account \$16,301.80. This is a very satisfactory showing. MISCELLANEOUS.—Telephones have been placed at Tl. 68. DEBENTURES.—5 per cent Municipal Debentures have been placed at Tls. 90; 5 1/2 per cent at Tls. 91.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 11th September.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	235 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	239

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	191
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	45 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	46 1/2

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	139 1/2
Bank, on demand	139 1/2

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	139 1/2
Bank, on demand	139 1/2

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	90 1/2
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	nominal
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	nominal
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	112 1/2
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	2 p.c. pm.
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ON SAIGON.—

On demand	1 1/2 p.c. pm.
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ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	62 1/2
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate ... \$10.75
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael ... 58
SILVER, per oz. ... 26 1/2

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—*Agamemnon*, *Glaucus*, *Sumatra*, *Pak Ling*, *Inaba Maru*.

FOR LONDON.—*Sumatra*, *Chusan*, *Kintuck*, *Pak Ling*, *Glaucus*, *Agamemnon*, *Kamakura Maru*, *Inaba Maru*.

FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Pingsley*, *Jason*.

FOR MARSEILLES.—*Agamemnon*, *Glaucus*, *Kintuck*, *Pak Ling*, *Kamakura Maru*, *Inaba Maru*.

FOR BREMEN.—*Bayern*, *Konigsberg*.

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Konigsberg*, *Andalusia*, *Abyssinia*, *Brigavia*, *Saronia*.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 11th September.—The volume of business transacted during the period under review is about the same as that of the preceding fortnight. From Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul was paid for a small carrier and 8 cents for a medium sized boat, prompt loading, the cargo consisting of rice flour. At time of writing only small piculs can be booked at the lower rate, cargo being very scarce; to Philippines, 25 cents per picul was paid for early October loading; and 23 cents per picul quoted for prompt steamers: north coast Java to Hongkong, 31 cents for wet and 27½ cents per picul for dry sugar; to Japan, 35 cents per picul last. Coal freights:—From Moji to this, \$1.40 and to Singapore \$2.00 per ton last. From Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton last; to Shanghai \$2.00. Newchwang to Canton, 23 cents per picul paid for prompt boat. Wuhu to Canton, 19 cardareens per picul quoted for September loading. The following are the settlements:—

Stanley Dollar—Danish steamer, 1,857 tons, four ports north coast Java to one or two ports Japan, 35 cents per picul.

Hounslow—British steamer, 1,830 tons, three ports north coast Java to Kobe or Yokohama, 35 cents per picul (October).

Benalder—British steamer, 1,959 tons, three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 27½ cents per picul.

Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, two ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 31 cents per picul.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,184 tons, Kuchinotzu to Zamboanga and Jale, \$5.65 per ton.

Maroz—British steamer, 4,451 tons, Moji, Karatsu, and Kuchinotzu, two ports to Singapore, \$2 per ton.

Willowdene—British steamer, 2,723 tons, Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2 per ton.

Else—German steamer, 903 tons, Hongkong to Swatow, \$1.90 per ton.

Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Ta cheong—German steamer, 939 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to one or two ports Philippines, 25 and 27 cents per picul (October).

Doris—Norwegian steamer, 965 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Lothian—British steamer, 3,223 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Unda—Norwegian steamer, 878 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul (rice flour).

Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul (rice flour).

Bjorn—Norwegian steamer, 722 tons, monthly, 1/11 months, at \$6.00 per month.

Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, monthly 4 months, at \$5.00 per month.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

September—

ARRIVALS.

- 6, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
- 6, Australien, French str., from Marseilles.
- 6, Bangkok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Bombay Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 6, Borneo, British str., from London.
- 6, C. Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
- 6, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Emma Luyken, German str., from Saigon.
- 6, Foochow, British str., from Hankow.
- 6, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 6, Idomenus, British str., from Saigon.
- 6, Salazie, French str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Taicheong, German str., from Moji.
- 6, Tingsang, British str., from Newchwang.
- 7, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Hoiho, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 7, Hong Bee, British str., from Straits.
- 7, Noanoke, Am. ship, from Shanghai.
- 7, Okean, Russian str., from St. Petersburg.
- 7, Pekin, British str., from Bombay.
- 7, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.

- 7, Ynensang, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Zaffro, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Mogul, British str., from Amoy.
- 8, An 'ho, British str., from Saigon.
- 8, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 8, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
- 8, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 8, Kowloon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Kumano Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
- 8, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Silvia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 8, S. V. Langkut, Dutch str., from Langkut.
- 8, Tientsin, British str., from Hankow.
- 8, Tiger, German g-bt., from Swatow.
- 8, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
- 9, Braemar, British str., from Amoy.
- 9, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
- 9, Clara Jebson, German str., from Hongkong.
- 9, Derawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
- 9, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 9, Kweilin, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
- 9, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
- 9, P. C. C. Kiao, German str., from Bangkok.
- 9, Tacoma, American str., from Tacoma.
- 9, Taileo, German str., from Iloilo.
- 9, Taishun, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 9, Wakasa Maru, Japanese str., from London.
- 10, Canton, British str., from Canton.
- 10, Feiching, Chinese str., from Hankow.
- 10, Finsbury, British str., from Hamburg.
- 10, Kulgan, British str., from Canton.
- 10, Loksang, British str., from Canton.
- 10, Tingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 10, Wingsang, British str., from Hankow.

September— DEPARTURES.

- 6, Albion, British battleship, for Weihaiwei.
- 6, Argonaut, British cruiser, for home.
- 6, Daiji Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
- 6, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Wongsung, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Agamemnon, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Australien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Bramble, British gunboat, for Weihaiwei.
- 7, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 7, Haugsing, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Hikosan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 7, Jupiter, British str., for Singapore.
- 7, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Shantung, British str., for Amoy.
- 7, Shakano Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 7, Taifu, German str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Tingsang, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Ulabrand, Norwegian str., for Shi-wi-yau.
- 7, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Bombay Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
- 8, Changchow, British str., for Chinkiang.
- 8, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
- 8, Hailoong, British str., for Tamsui.
- 8, Haitau, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 8, Lothian, German str., for Moji.
- 8, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.
- 8, Patrol, British cable str., for a cruise.
- 8, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.
- 8, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
- 8, Salazie, French str., for Europe.
- 8, Simo gan, Dutch str., for Surabaya.
- 8, Shinano Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
- 9, Ayr, British str., for Moji.
- 9, Borneo, British str., for Yokohama.
- 9, Chusang, British str., for Samarang.
- 9, Crown of Arragon, British str., for Durban.
- 9, Elita Nossack, German str., for Bangkok.
- 9, Else, German str., for Hongkong.
- 9, Hoihao, French str., for Pakhoi.
- 9, Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Huron, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Kingsing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Mogul, British str., for Singapore.
- 9, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
- 9, Okean, Russian str., for Port Arthur.
- 9, Silvia, German str., for Kientschou.
- 9, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
- 9, Telemachus, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Telemachus, British str., for Manila.
- 9, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongkong.
- 9, Wosang, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Wuhu, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Coast Ports.
- 10, Feiching, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 10, Hanci, French str., for Haiphong.
- 10, Hong Bee, British str., for Amoy.
- 10, Kweilin, British str., for Canton.
- 10, Olympia, American str., for Tacoma.
- 10, Pekin, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
- 10, S. V. Langkut, Dut. str., for Pulo Sambo.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Australien*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Guerrero, Rev. P. Fabre and Mr. Muhle; from Colombo, Sisters Gros and Regnault; from Singapore, Messrs J. L. Joseph, D. D. Wetamuthu and J. E. Skinner; from Saigon, Sister Dinas Lais, Revs. Beaublot and Poinat M. Jnes; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs. Posar, Miss Roza, Messrs. H. Smith, Grimaldi and Richet; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Messrs. Nagassi and Sabadino; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Rev. Henry Albert, Freres Volmar and Deis, Messrs. Bijot, Barriere, Gomez, Laisne, Leon Bullier, Chretien, Colas, Le Bihan and Descombes; from Port Said, Mr. Fioravanti; from Colomb, Mr. W. R. Martin.

Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Rev. and Mrs. Mekeham and infant; from Shanghai, Mrs. Blanche, Mrs. Jeannette, Mrs. and Miss Ranger, Mrs. Claire Rodriguez, Mrs. Ida Eekstein, Messrs. Arnold, de Figuero and Shurkie; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mr. Bourreau; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Messrs. A. Corbrat, Sekawartz and S. R. Lokon; for Suez, from Shanghai, Mr. Orphenadeo; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Casimir Mery and Boucard and Mr. Guerville; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Maring; from Shanghai, Messrs. Riches, Bernardier, Buzenack, Kergosien, Van Syck, Conty, Pasguelin, Benazet, Paly, Marguet, Le Gall, Hermann, Pollard, Herlatan, Levy, Person, Gloanire, Taro, Rondon, Jaguet and Major Hyen.

Per *Yawata Maru*, from Australia, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Moore, Miss Moore, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. G. Lee, Mr. W. Lee, jr., Misses R. A. Lee (2), Masters J. G. C. and D. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. W. Empson, Messrs. A. Rilay, G. F. Whitton, L. J. Thomas, J. L. Byrne and Dr. S. Honda; for Japan, Mrs. Wm. H. Bain, Mr. and Mrs. J. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. H. Citaki, Mrs. W. F. Morris, Miss Morris, Mrs. H. M. Jones, Mrs. E. M. Lam, Revs. L. C. Collins and S. B. Kurtz, Major S. W. Fountain, Lieut. E. W. Taylor, Messrs. J. Arthur Wood, T. C. Bairne, C. M. Bromsby, F. Futter, J. G. Ross, Wm. Paterson and J. Detburgo.

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Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALE for the Concerned, at 14, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.